

Shultz plans Sandinist sanctions

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz will recommend that President Reagan impose a trade boycott and halt airline traffic with the leftist government of Nicaragua, Senator Lloyd Bentsen said Tuesday. The Texas Democrat said he was informed of Shultz's recommendations Tuesday morning by the State Department. Mr. Bentsen introduced a resolution in the Senate last week calling on Mr. Reagan to institute economic sanctions against Nicaragua and met Mr. Shultz to press him on the issue. "I don't know the details of the administration proposal but I am pleased by the speed with which they seem to be responding to my suggestion," Mr. Bentsen said in a statement. He added: "It just doesn't make any sense for us to buy their goods and finance with our dollars the export of their revolution."

Related story on page 8

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U.S. renews call for Palestinian role

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Reagan administration called again Tuesday for Palestinian participation in Middle East peace negotiations, but it said it will not negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation until it recognises Israel's right to exist. There were published reports that PLO leader Yasser Arafat won agreement from his group's executive committee to name non-PLO members as part of a delegation to meet with Assistant Secretary of State Richard W. Murphy, but then decided such a move might split the organisation's leadership. Mr. Murphy, who was in the Middle East last week, apparently sought to meet with such a delegation as he tried to promote direct peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours. State Department spokesman Edward Djerejian reiterated that the administration does not support establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

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King congratulates Queen Beatrix

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of good wishes to Queen Beatrix of Holland on the occasion of Holland's national day. The King congratulated the queen on behalf of the people and government of Jordan and wished her health and happiness and the Dutch people progress and prosperity.

Arab-Americans host reception for Queen Noor

WASHINGTON (Petra) — A reception was held in honour of Her Majesty Queen Noor at Capitol Hill Monday evening. The reception was hosted by organisations representing Arab-Americans. Representative Mary Okar, of Arab origin, welcomed the Queen and praised her role in defence and promotion of Arab causes. Ms. Okar expressed the appreciation of Arab-American organisations for Jordan's support of their role. The reception was attended by a number of representatives, senior U.S. administration officials, the mayor of Washington, D.C., and the Jordanian ambassador to the U.S. and his wife.

Ortega arrives in Yugoslavia

BELGRADE (AP) — President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua arrived Tuesday from Moscow for an official visit and talks designed to promote bilateral relations. President Veselin Djuranovic greeted Mr. Ortega with the full honours accorded foreign heads of state. The situation in Central America was also expected to figure in the discussions which began Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Ortega left Moscow with a promise of economic aid from the Kremlin (See page 8).

Sudanese minister arrives in Sana'a

SANA'A (R) — Sudan's defence minister, Brigadier Osman Abdullah Muhammad, arrived in North Yemen Tuesday, continuing a tour of Arab states to explain the new government's policies. North Yemen's official SABA news agency said he delivered a message to President Ali Abdullah Saleh from Sudan's military leader General Abdul Rahman Swareddahab, who overthrew President Jaafar Numeiri in a bloodless coup on April 6. Brig. Muhammad has already visited Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman and is also planning to visit South Yemen and Somalia before returning home Wednesday.

Soviets honour Indira Gandhi

MOSCOW (R) — Former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated last October, has been posthumously given a top Soviet award, the Lenin Peace Prize. The official news agency TASS said it was "in recognition of outstanding contributions made to the struggle for preserving and strengthening peace." About five such prizes are presented annually as a mark of Soviet esteem for foreign figures. Moscow regarded Mrs. Gandhi as one of its closest friends in the Third World and political and economic relations between the two countries were smooth throughout most of her period in office.

King says joint talks with U.S. still possible

Shultz: Peace process slightly pushed ahead
Qaddoumi: American stand is biggest obstacle

NEW YORK (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has said that efforts to convene a meeting on Middle East peace between U.S. officials and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation were continuing, the New York Times reported Tuesday.

The Times reported that King Hussein said during an interview Monday that Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the United States were exploring suggestions for reviving the stalled peace process.

"As far as I'm concerned, the door has not been totally closed," the Times quoted the King as saying.

King Hussein said Jordan and the PLO plan to send a joint delegation to meet with the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and with other Arab nations to discuss the possibilities of an international conference, the United States and Soviet Union have refused to meet with the delegation, King Hussein said.

The King said he hopes to persuade the United States to change its mind about opposing the conference when he meets with Secretary of State George Shultz in Jordan in mid-May.

Mr. Shultz's assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Richard Murphy, left Jordan on Saturday. The King said his talks with Mr. Murphy allowed both sides to "clarify" their positions.

"We're still in a give-and-take process," he said in the Times interview. Mr. Shultz said in a television interview aired Monday that Mr. Murphy moved the Middle East peace process slightly ahead during his trip to the region.

In the interview recorded on Friday for the Voice of America's "Press Conference USA," Mr. Shultz commented that the pursuit

of peace in the Middle East is "a painstaking, difficult matter, and it comes in small bites. I think Ambassador Murphy has moved the situation along slightly during his trip."

Mr. Murphy's trip took him to Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Mr. Shultz will visit Jordan and Egypt, in addition to his originally-scheduled visit to Israel, when he goes to the Middle East before meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Vienna May 14.

The secretary told his interviewer that the Egyptian-Israeli relationship deserves attention, and the United States has bilateral relationships with Egypt and Jordan and Israel "that always are worth talking about."

"So," he said, "all of these things will be part of the conversation on that visit. It will be very brief."

In reply to a question whether he will meet Palestinian leaders from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza during his visit, Mr. Shultz said: "Well, I don't want to get into my schedule, but it will be partly just informal gatherings with some of the leaders in Israel, and also, frankly, I'll have been on a very hectic — almost two weeks with the president, and I'll be pointing into some other meetings, and I hope I can have at least one day of lying around and not doing very much..."

Meanwhile in Abu Dhabi, a top PLO official was quoted Tuesday as saying no Middle East peace settlement was possible in the foreseeable future because of American support for Israel.

"We must not afraid to say frankly that there will be no political settlement in the foreseeable future because the first priority of the United States is the security of Israel," Farouk Qaddoumi, head of the PLO political department, told Dubai's Al Bayan newspaper in an interview.

The PLO Executive Committee meeting in Baghdad earlier this month had rejected a U.S. proposal for non-PLO Palestinians to form a negotiating team with Jordan, he said.

"The American proposals are rejected totally, and the Baghdad meeting was clear on this. A delegation went to Jordan to inform the Amman government of the Baghdad decision," he said.

Mr. Qaddoumi said a Middle East peace solution must emanate from an international conference attended by both superpowers and the PLO. "We will go as a common Arab delegation composed of the PLO, represented equally with other Arab parties," he said.

The PLO and Jordan agreed on a joint peace strategy in February, but Mr. Qaddoumi said this was merely a means of advancing the peace plan agreed by an Arab summit in Fez, Morocco, in 1982 calling for an independent Palestinian state.

"When we say a Palestinian-Jordanian strategy, we want to get the Arab situation moving towards the Fez plan," Mr. Qaddoumi said.

The plan also implicitly recognised Israel's right to exist, but both Israel and the United States refuse to negotiate with the PLO.

Mr. Qaddoumi said that while differences persisted with Egypt over its 1979 peace treaty with Israel, Palestinians should cooperate with Egypt to help it fulfil its Arab role.

"We are with Egypt with all force, because Egypt is the leader of the Arab Nation... there can be no successful war of liberation without Egypt," he added.

Israel plans to 'build or refurbish' bomb shelters near border

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli ministerial committee Tuesday proposed allocating \$7 million to the "building or refurbishing" of bomb shelters in towns near the Lebanese border, a spokesman for Prime Minister Shimon Peres said.

"Time is running out and the confrontation line settlements are already within Katynsha rocket range," Mayor Azran Prosper of the Kiryat Shmona settlement said before he and seven other Galilee municipal leaders met the committee.

Discussion concerned a total \$200 million aid package for the north mostly comprising funds for road construction, education, agricultural and industrial development.

The spokesman said the committee, chaired by Mr. Peres, decided to ask the full cabinet on Sunday to approve the allocations, of which \$7 million were earmarked for bomb shelters.

The Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 was with the much-publicised aim of "peace in Galilee" and sought to eliminate the presence of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) from South Lebanon. PLO forces repeatedly used to fire Katyusha rockets at Israel's northern settlements.

The proposal to "build or refurbish" bomb shelters in the northern settlements brings Israel back to the situation which existed before the 1982 invasion.

The commander of Israel's northern front, Brigadier-General Ori Orr, told Israel-based reporters near the port of Tyre area evacuated Monday: "We are leaving. This is a bad place to be and it is a bad place to leave."



HASSAN RETURNS:

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned home Tuesday after opening the meetings of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) in Riyadh on Monday. He delivered a speech at the opening of the ATF meeting, held at the headquarters of the Gulf Cooperation Council

(GCC), in which he called for Arab solidarity in face of external challenges. During his visit to the Saudi capital, Prince Hassan also held talks with Saudi King Fahd (photo above) and Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz (Petra photo)

Militias wrench control of Kfar Falous from SLA

Lahad, Geagea vow not to evacuate Jezzine

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Fighters of a united Lebanese militia front attacked pro-Israeli militia positions in southern Lebanon Tuesday as fighting between Falangist and rival militias flared in Beirut.

Lebanese security sources told Reuters fighters of the Shiite Muslim Amal movement and their Sunni Muslim allies seized a recently-evacuated Israeli army base at Kfar Falous, 10 kilometres east of Sidon from the "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) militia.

They were battling for a nearby army barracks and hospital buildings where SLA units were holding out. One Amal fighter was killed and five people were wounded, the sources said.

Kfar Falous is 11 kilometres east of Jezzine, where thousands of Christians sought refuge after the militia front overran their villages east of Sidon and in the Kharrub region to the north on Sunday.

Fighting between Falangists and militiamen of Amal and the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) meanwhile flared on the "green line" dividing mainly-Muslim West Beirut from the predominantly Christian east, closing roads between the two sectors.

Radio stations said shells crashed deep into residential areas, but there were no immediate reports of casualties. The clashes followed overnight fighting that reached a deafening climax at dawn, residents said.

The fighting coincided with def-

iant declarations by SLA chief Antoine Lahad and Falangist militia leader Samir Geagea.

After Jezzine leaders asked the mainly Christian SLA to quit the town to avert a possible bloodbath, Brig. Lahad was quoted as saying: "If anyone wants to evict us from here let him try."

In Beirut, Dr. Geagea told reporters Falangist losses would be avenged. "What was taken by force will be recovered by force," he said, adding that every drop of blood shed in recent fighting would be paid for "very dearly."

Dr. Geagea sent his "Lebanese Forces" fighters against Palestinian refugee-camps in Sidon last month soon after declaring a militia revolt against President Amin Gemayel's efforts to reconcile Christians and Muslims.

He withdrew his forces after six weeks of bitter sectarian battles. PSP leader Walid Junblatt Tuesday repeated his desire to avoid a battle for Jezzine, which his forces overlook from the strategic Barouk mountain range to the north.

"We shall not enter it, nor will anyone else," Mr. Junblatt told reporters at his palace in the Shouf hills.

He said he was ready to let the army through PSP-held territory to take over Jezzine, but "this presupposes the departure of the Lebanese Forces and Antoine Lahad's forces" (Junblatt urges Christians to return, page 2).

At Kfar Falous, battles raged around SLA positions in an army barracks and a hospital complex

owned by Sidon-born Saudi Arabian millionaire Rafiq Hariri.

Reporters saw an SLA tank burst into flames after being hit by a shell. Another tank immediately moved forward to engage Amal and allied fighters from Sidon.

The fighters said the SLA was pouring artillery fire onto the attackers from hill positions near Roun village, a few kilometres away. As the fire was returned, 40 shells exploded in one 14-minute period.

At least 400 militiamen were seen on the otherwise deserted road from Sidon to Kfar Falous.

Families from impoverished Beirut suburbs meanwhile began moving into abandoned homes in the coastal village of Jijeh, north of Sidon, eyewitnesses said.

Reuter correspondent Hugh Pope saw at least 50 newly-installed families in Jijeh, captured by PSP forces from the "Lebanese Forces" on Sunday.

Amal fighters supervising the operation told him some 600 families had already sized houses.

In another development, one day after Israeli troops withdrew from Tyre, Amal militiamen, with a token presence of Lebanese army soldiers, established control in the port city and nearby towns Tuesday.

Just south of Tyre, Amal men set up checkpoints outside the Rashidiyeh Palestinian refugee camp, a major stronghold of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) before the 1982 Israeli invasion.

Grand ceremony planned to mark Labour Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's celebrations today of Labour Day will be marked by a grand celebration patronised by His Majesty King Hussein in Amman. The celebrations, in which labourers and labour leaders will be honoured with medals and token prizes, will be held at Al Hussein Youth City. Similar celebrations will be held in different parts of the country.

Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Haj Hassan, in an interview with Jordanian News Agency, Petra, praised the steadfastness of Arab labourers in the occupied West Bank.

He said that the set of laws, rules and regulations that the ministry follows ensure that priority for work is given to Jordanians while satisfying the labour needs of various sectors in accordance with supply and demand formulas.

The Jordan Times will not appear on Thursday, May 2, 1985, because of the Labour Day holiday on Wednesday. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Saturday, May 4, 1985.

He added that the ministry will supplement its employment offices with qualified cadres and modern equipment to improve their efficiency, especially in locating and providing job opportunities, organising the employment of incoming labour and organising and following up Jordanian labourers' affairs abroad.

"Mr. Haj Hassan said that the ministry will also develop its information collection system in order to ensure proper planning in the future."

He described the relationship between labourers, employers and the government as being "good, stable and balanced," and said the ministry will work for the improvement of working conditions of the labour forces through implementing a new labour law.

He said that the new labour law is being reviewed now by the cabinet and expressed hope that the law will be issued soon.

Gunmen hit Wells Fargo for second successive day

MIAMI, Florida (R) — Three masked gunmen robbed a Wells Fargo armoured car Tuesday, just a day after thieves in New York stole nearly \$8 million from the cash delivery firm, police reported.

Authorities said they did not know how much was taken in the Miami raid, which took place just before noon in a bank car park.

Three men wearing ski masks surprised the Wells Fargo guards and then fled on foot, a spokesman said.

A guard for the Southeast Bank was slightly injured, apparently in a fall.

In New York, meanwhile, spokesmen for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said there were no new developments in Monday's robbery but they expected a break in the case soon.

City police said the four men involved may have had inside information.

They broke into a Wells Fargo depot through the wall of an adjoining building early Monday, then surprised four guards when they opened the cash vault.

The gunmen loaded \$7.8 million into an armoured car and fled, leaving another \$12 million behind because there was no room in the vehicle.

Wells Fargo offered a \$350,000 reward for information in the case leading to a conviction.

Tehran urges airlines to resume flights

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has called on foreign airlines to resume flights to Tehran, suspended six weeks ago after Iraq declared Iranian air space a war zone.

Foreign airline sources in Tehran said they were treating the situation cautiously until it became clear that Iraq has withdrawn a warning that it cannot guarantee the security of civilian airliners over Iran.

The warning took effect on March 19 as Iran and Iraq, at war since September 1980, carried out air and missile attacks against each other's cities which have since stopped.

The International Civil Avi-

ation Organisation (ICAO) last week urged both countries to take immediate steps to ensure the safety of international aviation.

Iran's civil aviation chief, Hassan Shafii, told the national news agency IRNA that Iran Air had resumed all its international flights, and he called on foreign airlines to resume flying to Iran.

Only Swissair now flies to the southern port of Bandar Abbas, outside the supposed range of Iraqi jet fighters, and shuttles passengers to Tehran aboard chartered Iranian airliners.

In another development, Iran's U.N. envoy has said his country would be prepared to take its case

to the Security Council, but only after the 15-nation body had condemned Iraq for "aggression".

Ambassador Said Rajala Khorrassani was replying to a reporter who asked whether Iran was prepared to participate in a debate in the council, which it has accused of pro-Iraqi bias.

"We said we'd go back to the council only when the council condemns Iraq for its war of aggression against us... the council is not yet prepared to do that," he told a press conference.

Mr. Khorrassani said the statement also tried to satisfy "both the aggressor and the victim," which would not prove fruitful.

Blasts rock S.African gold mine offices

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Two

Thunderous bomb explosions Tuesday rocked the headquarters of two South African gold mining companies which fired more than 17,000 black miners, despite a promise by one of the firms to relocate most of its sacked workers.

Police said two Soviet-made limpet mines shattered windows at the central Johannesburg offices of Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Ltd and Angloval Ltd.

Limpet mines are often used by the banned African National Congress, which is fighting to overthrow the white minority rule in South Africa.

The last of about 14,000 miners fired by Anglo American over the weekend in a dispute over pay and other grievances at Vaal Reefs, the world's biggest gold mine, left

the complex for their tribal homelands Monday night.

Anglo American said production at the south shaft of the complex about 150 kilometres south of Johannesburg was at a standstill Tuesday. It promised to give priority to sacked miners when it started hiring again.

"The management has agreed to give preferential consideration to employing previous employees of the mine," the company said in a statement Monday night after discussions with the black National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

But management sources added that "dissident elements" would be weeded out and it was impossible to say when the shaft would reopen.

Angloval said almost all the 3,000 workers it fired from the

Hartheesfontein mine near Vaal Reefs had already gone home but it also was holding talks with NUM President Cyril Ramaphosa.

In Brussels on Monday, the international confederation of free trade unions, representing 82 million workers in 99 countries, condemned the sackings.

Meanwhile, in continuing nationwide unrest that has claimed more than 150 black lives this year, riot police fired tear gas and wielded whips in various townships overnight to disperse protesting crowds of blacks, police headquarters in Pretoria said.

In parliament on Monday, Law and Order Minister Louis le Grange enumerated the grim toll of recent unrest, saying 216 blacks and one white baby died in unrest in the seven months to March.

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Swareddahab expects Garang to join talks

MUSCAT (R) — Sudan's military ruler said in an interview Tuesday he expected southern dissident leader John Garang to take part in talks on the future of the country's non-Muslim south.

General Abdul Rahman Swareddahab told the Omani government newspaper *Oman*, "We have started contacts with him and we expect him to reply that he is ready for dialogue."

"Southern leaders will be invited to a conference to find a just solution to the problem of the south and John Garang will be one of the members of the conference," he added.

Col. Garang and his rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have previously spurned peace talks with the new rulers who ousted President Jaafar Numeiri on April 6.

Gen. Swareddahab said he would discuss southern demands for the abolition of Islamic Law in Sudan and certain laws would be reformulated "to reflect the tolerance of Islam".

Rebels in the mainly non-Arab, Christian or pagan south have been fighting a bush war against government troops for the past two years over several grievances, notably the carve-up by Numeiri in 1983 of the previously autonomous region into three provinces, and the imposition of Islamic Law.

Gen. Swareddahab revoked the decree concerning the autonomous region after seizing power but the rebels later said they were striving for broader goals and would continue the fight.

In his interview Tuesday Gen. Swareddahab said Sudanese Muslims were satisfied with Islamic Law and were all keen to see it stay.

Meanwhile Britain has agreed to supply Sudan with 28,000 tons of food aid to overcome drought problems, British junior Foreign Office Minister Richard Luce was quoted Monday as saying in Khartoum.

The first shipment of 17,000 tons of wheat will arrive within 48 hours, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported Mr. Luce as saying.

Britain has allocated \$272,000 to meet transportation expenses for the food, he added, according to the agency.

Mr. Luce met Sudanese Foreign Minister Ibrahim Taha Ayoub, who expressed the hope that Britain would extend more aid to Sudan and called for relations to be strengthened, SUNA said.

Mr. Luce is the first Western official to visit Sudan after the April 6 military coup.

He is on a six-day tour that will also take him to Egypt and Tunisia.

Alternative futures for Arabs explored at Washington meeting

WASHINGTON (USA) — Arab culture cannot "continue to play Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" — to be "modern and traditional at the same time," according to Professor Issa Boullata in remarks at Georgetown University's Centre for Contemporary Studies (CCAS) last week (April 25-26).

Boullata, professor of Arabic literature at McGill's Institute of Islamic Studies, addressed the topic of "Challenges to Arab Cultural Authenticity," saying, "There is no doubt that there is a cultural crisis in the Arab World" which will not be resolved by 1995.

He suggested that "Islamic resurgence will continue to grow and spread among Arabs because more than any other ideology Islam can really capture the imagination..." He said Arab governments will continue to use Islamic symbols which will keep some of them in power temporarily. Still he predicts a gradual disillusionment with Islamic resurgence, comparable to earlier disillusionment with Arab nationalism. He explained that both Islamic resurgence and Arab nationalism have elements that can succeed, but neither have been "realistically grounded in the present day conditions of the Arabs" or "the modern world at large."

Still, by the 21st Century, Prof. Boullata said, Arab intellectuals will have to realise that "Arab culture and the Islamic heritage will inevitably have to be taken into serious consideration in any modernising process." He pointed out, however, that "some elements will have to be discarded or reinterpreted." He cautioned that, "lucid choices will have to be made."

Speaking at the CCAS' tenth annual symposium which followed the theme of "The Next Arab Decade: Alternative Futures" Prof. Boullata said the idea that Arab culture is a "monolithic entity" which is permanent, static and handed down from one generation to another is not accurate.

He explained that all groups learn to acquire new cultural elements as they are discarding others and that the only culture that does not change is one that is dead.

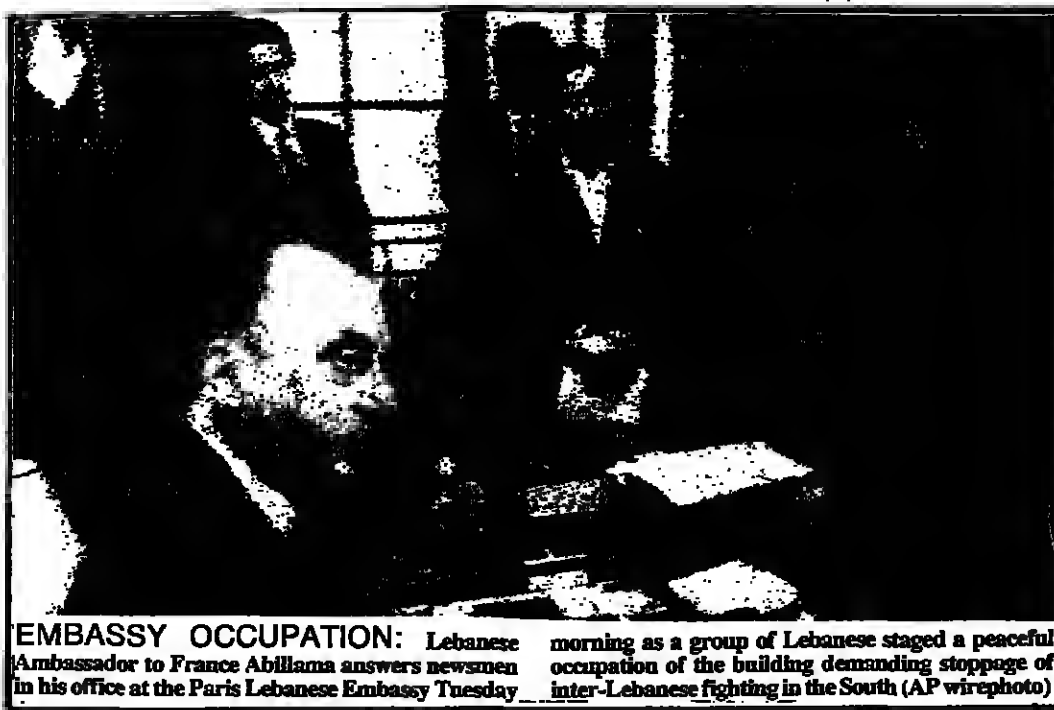
The national debate that is required to quell the crisis must be "carried across the whole Arab World," Prof. Boullata said, reaching men and women and the younger generation. It must reach into Arab homes through television and radio and through professional Arab associations he said. The ultimate synthesis "will fuse living elements of Islamic tradition and relevant elements of modern culture, thus creating an authentic, integrated Arab modernity," Prof. Boullata said. On the cultural synthesis Prof. Boullata said there will be no doubt that "culturally it will be an Arab modernity, an authentic Arab way of life in modern times, not a Western one."

In the same panel Kamel Abu Deeb, who is a Professor of Arabic Criticism at Yarmouk University in Jordan, talked about "Cultural Creation in a Fragmented Society." Also a poet, Abu Deeb spoke about "the collapse of consensus" as being the most important factor of fragmentation. He said there will be a struggle between "the shock of modernity" and "the shock of tradition."

Another panel dealt with the overall theme of "The Arab-Israeli Conflict." Joel Beinin, who is with the Stanford University Department of History, addressed the theme of "Israel: The Political Economy of a Garrison State and Its Future." He said, "the conditions of Israel's existence have forced it to become a garrison state," but he said Israel had no other choice than to become that. He said, "We can expect to see a period of crisis in the Israeli economy, sharpened social and political conflict and a more aggressive stance toward the Arab World and a growing dependency on the United States." He also said: "In the absence of dramatic changes in the Arab World, it may well be that the internal struggle within Israel will be the most decisive arena for determining the outcome of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Beinin said there are two "wild cards" which arise when examining Israel's political economy. One is that "Israel's economy is in such a deep state of crisis that it could collapse at any time," according to his calculations. He also raised the possibility of another war in the region if the Arab-Israeli conflict is not settled but said he did not expect that to happen any time soon.

Anthony Cordesman, who is president of Analytical Assessments Corporation, examined "the Implications of Current Trends in the Arab-Israeli Balance." He said, "the Arab-Israeli conflict is increasingly an Israeli-Syrian conflict with occasional sidesteps from the PLO and various ethnic movements in Lebanon."



Syrians staying put in eastern Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli generals said Tuesday the Syrian army in eastern Lebanon has largely refrained from moving into positions vacated last week by Israeli forces.

"Two battalions of the Lebanese army are deployed in the Bekaa and there has been no real Syrian movement there," Chief of Staff Moshe Levy told Israel Radio.

General Ori Orr, commander of Israeli forces in the north, said on radio that the Syrian army had set up various observation points across the former confrontation line but "no significant force moved."

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin had predicted the Syrians might move a short distance south to reclaim some positions lost in the 1982 Israeli invasion.

"Last week the Israeli army withdrew from eastern Lebanon, pulling back to its 'security zone', six to 15 kilometres north of the Israeli border. The government has said the troops will be home by June."

On Monday the army left the Tyre area, scene of daily resistance attacks that caused hundreds of Israeli casualties.

reported that senior military sources expect Syria to move more troops soon into the evacuated area. The newspaper did not identify its sources.

Israel has been monitoring Syrian troop movements since withdrawing from the eastern sector of South Lebanon on April 24 after 34 months of facing the Syrians across the Bekaa Valley.

When Israel pulled out of the east, Syrian troops were deployed in the northern and central Bekaa Valley within 35 kilometres of the Israeli border.

Syria, Iraq urged to reopen borders

AMMAN (Petra) — The general assembly for the Arab Land Transport Union (ALTU) called on the governments of Iraq and Syria to reopen their borders, allow passengers and cargo's movement between the two countries and allow pumping of Iraqi oil through Syria, according to the unions Secretary General Abdullah Dmour.

Mr. Dmour told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the union's general assembly has called for the neutrality of Arab economic action away from political differences in accordance with

the union and the Arab Council of Transport Ministers.

The assembly also recommended to the union's general secretariat to embark on a training programme covering transport economics, cost accounting, and passenger handling.

The assembly also endorsed the unions work plan for 1985, the unions budget for 84 and its estimated budget for 1985.

The assembly decided to hold its next meeting at the unions headquarters in Jordan at the end of this year.

Arab summits resolutions.

The assembly which concluded its sixth annual meeting held in Baghdad between April 21 and April 24 has passed many resolutions that will boost and revitalise the role of the land transport sector in Arab countries' development plans, according to Mr. Dmour.

He added that the assembly called for the holding of seminars in different Arab countries on the subject of transport and called for an improved cooperation between

Egypt seeks British assurances before allowing deportation of four plotters

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Egypt is seeking certain assurances from Britain before allowing deportation of two Britons and two Maltese implicated in an alleged Libyan assassination plot, a British diplomatic source said Tuesday.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the British embassy was trying to resolve the issue before the four men will be allowed to leave the country "within a matter of days."

He refused, however, to reveal the nature of the assurances sought by Egypt. The Interior (police) Ministry's chief spokesman, Maj. Gen. Bahaaeddin Ibrahim, refused

comment on grounds it was a state security department matter. Security officials could not be reached for comment.

Egypt last week ordered the expulsion of Britons Anthony Gill, 48, of Colchester, England, Godfrey Shiner, 47, of Warwickshire, England, and Maltese nationals Romeo Nicholas Schembri and Edgar Bonnici-Cachia. The Cairo government asked Britain, which looks after Maltese interests in Egypt, to arrange for the men's departure.

All four were arrested last Nov. 17 for alleged involvement in an abortive coup to kill former Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid

Bakoush, a political refugee here since 1978.

Shiner was released on bail last February but was kept in Egypt. The other three have remained in custody, but no official indictment has been issued against them. Neither Egyptian officials nor British diplomats would say why Cairo decided to deport the four men without trial.

Gill was booked to leave for London on a British Airways flight on Monday and was escorted by security men to Cairo Airport for the trip. There he was turned back because of what a British embassy spokesman termed "a minor last-minute hitch."

PSP leader wants Christians to return

MUKHTARA, Lebanon (R) — Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt, whose fighters have overrun a swathe of territory south of Beirut and forced the exodus of thousands of Christians, said he would like them to return to their communities.

Mr. Junblatt, leader of the mainly-Druze PSP and minister of public works, also told Reuters in an interview he was sick of war and felt the time was now ripe for a settlement with Lebanon's Christian community.

Thousands of Christians have fled their homes since Sunday's opposition attack on a small contingent of Falangist "Lebanese Forces" fighters in the Sidon area and adjacent Iqlim Al Kharrub region.

Speaking at his ancestral palace in the Shout Mountains a day after PSP fighters won the Kharrub in an easy fight, Mr. Junblatt said: "The PSP and (Shi'ite Muslim) Amal Movement must make every effort to make the Christians come back."

Mr. Junblatt said it was time to get out of a "bloody, vicious circle of war," achieve true national reconciliation and prevent the country from splitting into sectarian camps.

Mr. Junblatt said, however, it was unlikely the Christian refugees fleeing east to the town of Jezzine would want to return until a new security agreement was reached.

"You have to fix up security first. It's impossible now, it's too chaotic," he said.

Foreign relief workers said at least 10,000 Christians had fled to Jezzine since "Lebanese Forces" militiamen retreated from Sidon after a six-week battle with Palestinians and Muslims. Some estimates put the number as high as 75,000.

Fearing imminent attack, many were heading to an Israeli-held border strip where Israel wants to set up a security zone to prevent cross-border attacks after it completes a troop withdrawal from Lebanon within the next few weeks.

Blaming Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Geagea for starting the fighting in the Sidon, Mr. Junblatt said President Amin Gemayel still had a "chance to be president of all the Lebanese" if he learned from Mr. Geagea's defeat.

He said he had no intention of moving PSP forces east to Jezzine, where he wanted the army to deploy, and was in contact with militia leaders in Sidon to prevent an invasion.

Mr. Junblatt said the PSP assault had been primarily directed at the Falangist-held port of Tyre, the only supply route for the "Lebanese Forces" between Beirut and the South.

"Suddenly we realised that... the (Sunni) Nasserites were going up to Kfar Falaq (east of Sidon) and we decided to rush and take some important positions," he said.

Looking tired, nervously tapping his feet and admitting he felt but uneasy about the future, Mr. Junblatt said the PSP military victory had been tainted by widespread looting.

He said he was "not so happy" with his present holdings because they had been won "after a big disaster," referring to the plunder of abandoned Christian homes by civilians which continued Monday.

Along the coastal road near Jiyeh, a nominal army presence had disappeared and Reuters correspondent Hugh Pope saw wholesale looting by hundreds of people. Several families, mainly Shi'ites, moved into empty homes.

At roadsides in the Kharrub Hills, the PSP seized some stolen furniture and burned it to discourage theft.

South of Jezzine, Christians interviewed while waiting in a four kilometre-long stretch of cars, vans and school buses to pass through the Israeli checkpoint on the way to the border strip said they felt angry and abandoned.

"Geagea gathered his arms and fled to Beirut, leaving us to fend for ourselves and letting his men die," said an old man at the end of three lines. He had already waited three hours.

"We don't have any Christian leaders, they don't exist," said a middle-aged woman who works in public relations.

A Christian man in his 20s scoffed at reports that Israel was helping Christians by providing food and blankets to those arriving in Marjayoun. "All they wanted was their bloody Christian (security) belt at their border," he said.

Jezzine itself was brimming with refugees, some old and sick. Many had slept in their cars and on their roads because they could not find a place to stay.

A man in his 60s fled from his village by foot with only the clothes on his back and not enough money to buy a sandwich. There were few kind words for Christian leaders, but one elderly woman said: "Tell the Pope thanks, because he prays for us."

Police find car used in attempt to kill Jarallah

KUWAIT (Petra) — The car that was used in the assassination attempt of Mr. Ahmad Jarallah, editor in chief of the Kuwaiti newspaper *As Sayassat* last Tuesday was found by the police Tuesday.

The Kuwaiti based newspaper *Al Rai* said Jarallah reported that Mr. Jarallah's health condition was improving and that doctors allowed him for the first time to get out of his bed and walk as well as eat his lunch and dinner out of his bed.

Mr. Jarallah had to undergo a critical operation after which he was put under intensive care since six bullets hit him during an attempt on his life.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION		23:05	Evening Show Continued
Tel: 73711-19		23:57	News Headlines
		24:00	Close Down
		BBC WORLD SERVICE	
		639, 720, 1413 KHz	
MAIN CHANNEL		07:00 News 07:30 Waveguide 07:45	
07:00	Cartoon	Financial News 07:55 Reflections 08:00	
07:15	Children's Programmes	World News 08:09 24 Hours: News	
08:05	George	Summary 08:30 What's New 08:45 The	
08:30	Sport — Football	World Today 09:00 Newsday 09:30	
09:25	Programme Review	09:30 24 Hours: News Summary	
09:40	News Programmes	10:30 Report on Religion 10:45 That's	
10:00	Post	Trad 11:00 World	
20:00	News in Arabic	News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 In-	
20:40	Arabic Series	troduction 11:30 Main	
21:30	Programme Review	stream 12:00 World News 12:09 British	
21:50	Arabic Varieties	Press Review 12:15 The World Today	
23:00	News in Arabic	12:30 Financial News 12:40 Look	
FOREIGN CHANNEL		Ahead 12:45 Kicking Up The Scares	
18:00	French Programme: Des chiffres et des lettres	13:00 News Summary Cathedral Heri-	
18:30	Cartoon	tage 13:30 Chesowanjia 14:00 World	
19:00	News in French	News 14:09 News about Britain 14:15	
19:15	Microscape	Hunger 14:30 Meridian 15:00 Radio	
19:30	News in Hebrew	News 15:15 Nature 15:25	
20:00	News in Arabic	The Farming World 15:45 Sports	
20:40	Arabic Series	Round-up 16:00 World News 16:09 24	
21:30	Programme Review	Hours: News Summary 16:30 British	
21:50	Arabic Varieties	Siring 16:45 News Summary Outlook	
23:00	News in Arabic	17:45 Report on Religion 18:00 Radio	
23:20	Documentary — The Pacific Ocean (Eps. 4)	Newsweek 18:15 The Pleasures of	
23:40	News in English	Seeking 18:30 Two Cheers for April 19:00	
23:57	Play of the Week: "The Appointment"	World News 19:09 Commentary 19:15	
		Rock Solid 19:45 The World Today	
		20:00 World News 20:09 Monitor 20:15	
		Monitor 20:35 Waveguide 20:45 Sports	
		Round-up 21:00 Newsday 21:30 Top	
		Twenty 22:00 Outlook 22:30 Stock	
		Market Report 22:45 Good Books 23:00	
		World News 23:09 24 Hours: News	
		Summary 23:30 Assignment 24:00 News	
		Summary: J.K. Network 08:15 In-	
		ternational Special 08:45 Recording of the	
		Week 01:25 A Letter from	
		Wales 01:30 Financial News 01:40	
		Reflections 01:45 Sports Round-up 02:00	
		World News 02:09 Commentary 02:15	
		Good Books 02:30 Top Twenty	

Decree approves reformation of Jerusalem commission

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the reformation of the Royal Commission for Jerusalem.

The commission president will be Mr. Akram Zuaiter and the following will be members: Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Hazem Nusseibeh, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, Minister

of Foreign Affairs Taher Al Masri, Minister of Information, Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Al Khatib, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Taher Kanaan, Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mheilan, Mr. Rayef Nijem, Mr. Fuad Farraj, Archbishop Saleem Al Sayegh and Lord Mayor of Jerusalem Rawhi Al Khatib.

Jordan, Syria review exchange of agricultural produce

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Agriculture Under Secretary Salem Al Lawzi returned to Amman Tuesday after a two-day visit to Damascus where he discussed the prospects of increasing the volume of exchanged agricultural products between Syria and Jordan.

Jordanian tomatoes to Syria every day during May, while Jordan will import 2,000 tonnes of Syrian onions, he said.

The talks dealt with the possibility of diversifying the exchanged products to include barley, wheat, potato seeds and canned food. The Syrian side has promised to study the subjects discussed and will send its reply as soon as possible, Dr. Lawzi said.

During the visit the two sides signed an agreement for the export of 10,000 tonnes of oranges to Syria from now and until the end of next month.

Publications controller bans the circulation of 23 films

AMMAN (J.T.) — The controller general of publications has issued a circular dated April 25 banning the circulation and screening of the following films or any copies of

these films, in accordance with directives from the Arab Office for the Boycott of Israel and law number 52 of 1951 on the control of films:

FILM TITLE	REASONS FOR BAN
Top Secret	Distributed by the banned Paramount company
Pied Piper	as above
Terms of Endearment	as above
Strategic Air Command	as above
Zulu	as above
War of the Worlds	as above
Escape from Alcatraz	as above
When Worlds Collide	as above
Escape to Victory	as above
Jonathan Livingston Seagull	as above
Starting Over	as above
Danger Diabolik	as above
Racing with the Moon	as above
Isomdel Cielo	as above
The Optimists	as above
Duck Soup	as above
Eddie Macon's Run	as above
The Hunter	as above
King of Gypsies	Stars the banned actress Shinee
Desert Songs	Offensive to Arabs
Tuareg	as above
Ivanhoe	Produced by the banned Rank Organisation
Bolero	Produced by the banned Yorann Globus and Menahem Golai.

A touch of the gypsy soul

By Jean Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Of all the musicians who have performed in Amman during the past two or three years, Bireli Lagrene is without a doubt the most unusual.

The Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) does not feature a gypsy jazz guitarist every day, nor every month. The exceptional aspect of the event is more obvious when you consider the age of the performer who is acclaimed as a "child genius" by international critics. Bireli Lagrene is now eighteen years old. He started the guitar at six, and has been playing in public concerts since he was thirteen.

The RCC will stage a one-night only performance by Bireli Lagrene on Thursday May 2, at 8 p.m., organised by the Goethe Institute in Amman.

A German gypsy born in Alsace, Bireli Lagrene is the son of a well-known guitarist and was raised on Django Reinhardt records. The influence of the great musician on Bireli, though unmistakable, has not distracted him from cultivating and developing his own musical personality.

His name has been associated with stars like Al Di Meola, John MacLaughlin and Stephane Grappelli who used to play the violin with Reinhardt.

Reflections of Goedike's 'joie de vivre' on canvas

Bh Saleem B.N. Matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — It does not take a great effort to discover "le joie de vivre" in the paintings of Shiril Goedike — often described as the happy artist. Whatever way you look at it, the prominent American artist's work exhibited over the last two weeks at the Jordan National Gallery, strikes you as an authentic characterisation of "the joy of life" you experience in his pictures.

In a unique style developed by his own individual approach, Goedike delivers not only a work of art but an atmosphere of gaiety in a variety of images. His realism is not that of classic art as we know it, but a combination of what he sees and what he feels. Here again, one cannot describe him as an impressionist.

His paintings, unlike those of impressionists, evolved from abstraction and not the other way around. He strives to be different and unique — that is simply himself.

Goedike, 60, displays the same vivid transparency in his oils and his watercolours. In a uniform way, he paints people, bus stops, cars, coffee shops and landscapes — all manifesting each to its own way, the joy of living.

death," he says, "I see life in my own perspective and it is joyful with all its goods and evils."

Goedike who visits Jordan for the first time, divides his life between California in the United States and the French Riviera in Southern France. He lives six months a year in each place.

He cites "a similarity in the light" between Los Angeles and Amman. "Driving through the hills here, it reminds me of Southern California," he said.

"Paradise"

"Jordan is paradise for a painter of my persuasion," Goedike said. He spent the last two weeks touring Jordan and drawing sketches in Petra, Aqaba, Jerash, Salt, the Jordan Valley and Wadi Rum.

The artist intends to compile an exhibition of his works on Jordan. He said he will return to Jordan in October to continue making studies on subjects that interested him. "I am interested in the old as well as the new... perhaps the combination of these two is what appeals to me," he said.

Explaining his approach to painting, Goedike believes that "an artist's work should be the mirror of his time." In a way, he works like a journalist; he keeps his eyes as well as his mind open to grasp everything around him; light, sound, smell and feeling.

Describing his works, the artist cites an element of impressionism "but very contemporary in conception." "The photographic images in my daily life delivered by the media has influenced my life. For me the composition is very important," he said.

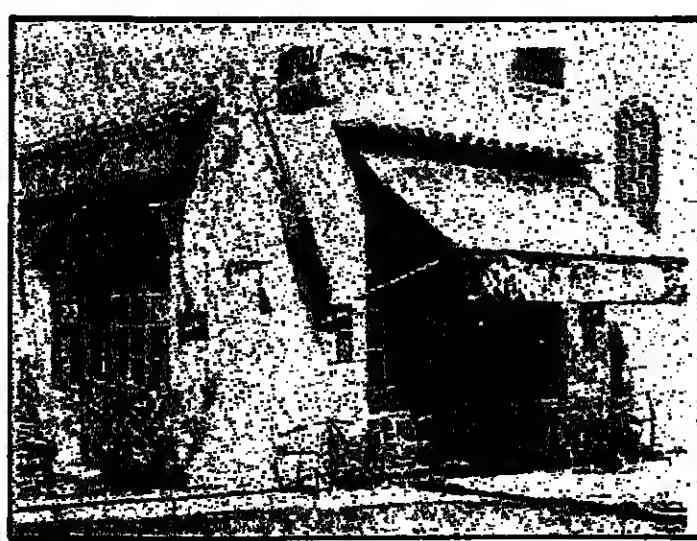
ART REVIEW

Like a journalist, he visits places and documents them without any preconceived ideas and without overplaying a scene on the expense of playing down the other in his works. "Art is not a profession... it is a way of life and throughout, our philosophy is conditioned, the artist said.

Before beginning his work on a painting, Goedike prepares many sketches — hundreds sometimes — and refers to photographs he had taken for a particular scene, to refresh his memory and to recreate his experiences. After that, he puts away everything and paints from memory. "There are ways to recreate experiences in paint in a way that gives these experiences another dimension... one that is eternally alive," he said.

Expressing ideas

The subject is of true importance to him and what he puts on canvas is a combination of what



Cafe at Antibes II — Shiril Goedike

he sees and what he feels. "The artist will succeed or fail to the degree he is capable to respond to the subject... otherwise, it will be superficial," he added. His pictures strike you first as expressing ideas, then comes the aesthetics of the work; colour, form, and structure which are all "supportive of the idea."

Goedike is the only artist so far to be invited to exhibit his works in the Elysee Presidential Palace in Paris. French President Francois Mitterrand, who inaugurated his

dinner for two, an air ticket to Delhi or Bombay, a gold ring, a Cartier lighter and a variety of electrical goods.

Another typically British item will be the "White Elephant" stall where household goods contributed by individuals are sold off at bargain prices. Besides all this will be a sale of handicrafts, home made cakes, kitchen produce and plants.

The British Ladies of Amman first organised a May Day fair in 1982 and have run one each year since.

Last year, over 2,000 people attended and a total of JD 3,600 was contributed to charities from the proceeds. In 1984 contributions for prizes came mainly from British companies, but this year many more Jordanian companies are giving generously to help the less fortunate.

The honorary president of the British Ladies of Amman is Mrs. Coles, wife of the British ambassador, and the chairman is Mrs. Maris Attalla. The organisers of the May Day fair are Mrs. Sheila Flowers and Mr. Pat Bailey whose team of about 20 ladies have been preparing for the event since January.

RSS, Indian scientific research centre sign technical cooperation protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in India Tuesday signed a protocol for scientific and technical cooperation.

The protocol broadly provides for the exchange of scientists, research scholars and specialists for research, training, consultation and exchange of experience in areas of mutual interest. Cooperation will also include organisation of bilateral scientific and technical seminars and courses on problems of mutual interest, secondment of experts for short and long durations, and training of technicians.

The protocol also provides for the establishment of a joint com-

mittee to formulate specific work plans as well as services and to finalise the ongoing projects. The joint committee will meet every two years alternatively in India and Jordan.

The three-member delegation from India was led by Dr. M. Ramalah, the director of the Structural Engineering Research Centre in Madras, and comprised Dr. M. Aslam, a scientist from the Central Building Research Institute and Mr. B.C. Sharma, a scientist from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in New Delhi. The delegation arrived in Jordan on April 26, to sign the protocol and to finalise the work plan for the next two years.

During their stay the delegation met Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour, Ministry of Industry and Trade Under-Secretary Ibrahim Badran, Jordan Electricity Authority Director General Mohammad Arafah and senior officials of the Ministry of Public Works and directors of the Royal Scientific Society.

The five-year protocol agreement was signed by Dr. M. Ramalah and RSS President Fakhraddin Daghestani.

The signing of the protocol agreement was attended by Mr. Santoshi, the ambassador of India to Jordan, members of the Indian delegation and directors of various RSS departments.

British ladies to present varied activities at their May Day charity fair today

By Suzanne Zu'mut-Black
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On Wednesday May 1, the gardens of the British ambassador's residence in Amman will once again be transformed into an English village green where all the traditional festivities of the May Day fair will take place.

Organised by the British Ladies of Amman, the event will present fun, games, entertainment and contests to produce a light hearted day out for all members of the family.

Gates will be opened at 11:45 a.m. and the proceedings will be set in motion by the British ambassador at 12:00. Some 50-70 members of the British Ladies of Amman will be in attendance to run the sideshows, contests, food stalls and other events.

For the children, there will be the usual games hoop-la, roll-the-penny, skittles and darts, amongst others, and a clown to keep things lively. For the more sophisticated youngsters there will be a session of "Junior Tombola" with over 1,000 prizes to be won. Adults will have their own Bingo game.

A further event, which will prob-

ably involve parents as much as the children, will be a "Grand Fancy Dress Parade" at 1:00 p.m. in which all boys and girls, up to the age of eleven, are invited to participate. Once again, some fine prizes are to be presented.

The centrepiece of the fair will be the traditional May pole whose origins date back to very early times and whose stripes and ribbons represent the resurgence of nature as Spring returns to the land. It was customary for the youth of the village to dance round the pole and to weave a complicated pattern with the ribbons suspended from its apex. On Wednesday, however, the pole will be static.

In addition to entertainment, stalls for refreshments will provide ice cream, soft drinks, hot dogs and hamburgers and a bar will be the only section of the fair which the husbands of the British Ladies of Amman will be permitted to organise. For those with a more cultural bent, a Scottish piper and dances, especially flown in for the occasion, will entertain from 1:30 p.m.

Throughout the day raffle tickets will be on sale and a draw will take place at 4:00 p.m. Prizes to be won include, bicycles, hot-tray,

dinner for two, an air ticket to Delhi or Bombay, a gold ring, a Cartier lighter and a variety of electrical goods.

Another typically British item will be the "White Elephant" stall where household goods contributed by individuals are sold off at bargain prices. Besides all this will be a sale of handicrafts, home made cakes, kitchen produce and plants.

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Hussein reiterates call for joint Arab action

King addresses meeting of Arab jurists

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that joint Arab action, together with close and sincere cooperation between Arab countries can bolster the Arab stand and help fulfil the aspirations of the nation.

Addressing delegates participating in the meetings of the Arab Jurists Federation in Amman, the King said that the Arab nation can fulfil its aspirations through the awareness of its citizens and through their concerted efforts and close cooperation in serving national Arab interests.

King Hussein welcomed the delegates to Jordan and wished

them success in their endeavours.

The federation's secretary general made a reply speech during the meeting and expressed his hope that Jordan will achieve further progress and prosperity under the leadership of King Hussein. He conveyed to the King, the greetings from the delegations and their countries and he expressed the federation's pride in Jordan's firm national stand towards Arab

issues. He also congratulated the King on the opening of the Aqaba Nuweibe maritime route, describing it as a first step towards the rebirth of a strong Arab nation.

Several of the delegates also spoke during the meeting, held at the Royal Court, and outlined the achievements of the federation. They also reviewed the federation's stand vis-a-vis the Palestine question and other common Arab problems such as the Iraqi-Iran war and the situation in Lebanon.

The meeting was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem.

Arab environmentalists call for regional legislation, strategy to combat pollution

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Development plans

AMMAN — The three-day meetings of the Arab Standing Committee for Monitoring and Fighting Environmental Pollution concluded Tuesday. During the meetings, conferees discussed environmental issues of desertification, rubbish disposal, marine pollution, the disposal of toxic chemicals, marsh lands, the environment in the Red-Sea and Arab environmental conditions up to the year 2000.

The meeting, which was organised by the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) in cooperation with the Environment Department at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, called for implementing a regional strategy to protect the Arab environment.

The participants pointed out the importance of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in offering needed scientific information to Arab environmental pollution stations. They also stressed that environmental conditions should be taken into account when development plans are implemented in order to protect the environment from further pollution.

Addressing the closing session, Dr. Soufian Al Tal, director of the Environment Department at the ministry, called on ALESCO to prepare "legislative motions for environmental protection in the Arab World in order that such legislation could upgrade current laws."

Mr. Tal stressed that an environmental standard project should be executed and that the United Nations' Environment Pro-

gramme (UNEP) and its regional offices should increase their cooperation with the Arab Standing Committee for Monitoring and Fighting Environmental Pollution.

During their four-day meetings at the Yarmouk University Liaison Office, Dr. Tal presented a working paper discussing the role of the Arab committee and a regional strategy for combating environmental pollution as well as the Jordanian experience in fighting pollution.

Another paper on "Environmental Planning," prepared by Dr. Ayman Al Habaal from the Syrian Scientific Research Centre, discussed the importance of environmental planning and its effect on development plans.

Participants from Kuwait, Morocco and Algeria also presented reports on their countries' experiences in environmental pollution and protection.

VTC introduces theoretical, practical tests to assess skill levels of workers

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After a couple of years of preparation work, which has included field research, job description and classification, and preparation of tests, the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) is now applying these tests on an experimental basis to identify skill levels of workers.

The project, which started in February, is directed mainly at the industrial sector, at least for the time being, according to VTC President Munther Al Masri. He explained to the Jordan Times that this sector has been divided, for practicality, into eight groups of occupations, three of which have been given the priority for the present time; the mechanical, electrical and construction groups. These three groups cover, in fact, the great majority of workers in Jordan.

So far, the project has started only with the mechanical group, while tests for the electrical groups are expected to start in June, leaving the construction group for next January.

The screening of labourers, Dr. Al Masri explained, includes analysis, classification, job description and tests. "We are presently in an experimental stage with the mechanical group, which covers 80 jobs," he said. "We are learning as well, and improving our methods and facilities as we go."

Voluntary screening

This screening is presently done

only for those workers who require it voluntarily in order to assess their own skills and qualifications, verify their claims and receive some kind of certificate proving their abilities. "It is especially valuable," Dr. Al Masri explained, "for older people who have attained a certain standard of position through experience only, before vocational training courses were in function."

The tests are divided into two parts, theoretical and practical. After these tests, the applicants can choose to perfect their skills or fill in any missing gaps between theoretical and factual standards. If needed, by joining special upgrading courses offered by the VTC. The tests are offered to craftsmen, skilled and unskilled workers throughout the country regardless of nationality, Dr. Al Masri said.

Experimental period

He added that this present experimental period is essential for the corporation itself in order to acquire more experience. It is also necessary in order to let the idea infiltrate among workers. He said that the first reports from these tests will be committed to him in June. "I don't expect a great number of applicants at the present," he said. "It will take time for the idea to spread."

Dr. Al Masri added that he expects this experimental stage to last, at the most, two years, but hopefully less, after which this screening will become a customary procedure, through gradual choice of priority areas. "We expect

that these tests will become mandatory for the new workers entering the labour field," he explained. "And they will be required to either pass or join a recruiting training programme, or to pass the minimum requirements in the tests."

"Perhaps," he added, "this procedure will also apply to already employed workers, giving them a certain period of time to fill in any gaps the tests may reveal. But this will not depend on the VTC only, as much as on the Ministry of Labour and the different trade unions."

Presently, all tests are done at the various VTC centres around the country. Whenever particular equipment is required for certain skills, however, arrangements may need to be made with employees to have the practical tests done at their place.

Dr. Al Masri added that VTC might decide to have one of these tests conducted in cooperation with the trade unions. "Then such project would really be valuable," he said. "It will help the employers and workers alike, either when the workers first join a company or when they move from one job to another. It will facilitate, in other words, the mobility of workers, both on a horizontal and a vertical level. The system of job upgrading, in fact, will become more standardized according to a recognised basis," he added.

He said these present and future benefits are a reason why trade unions and employees, as well as the government, are supporting this VTC project throughout the Kingdom.

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Democracy in action

THE Lower House of Parliament on Monday gave the government of Mr. Zaid Rifai an overwhelming vote of confidence. But important as it is, the vote can only be the beginning of a democratic process which we all hope will follow from here. Those honourable gentlemen of the House who heaped both criticism and praise at the government's policy statement during Monday's debate have only done that much in advancing the concept of democratic exchange in this country. Ahead of them lies much more that can be said and done in guiding the government and people towards our common objectives for a better life and true security for the coming generations. Politics is a daily process, and parliament and the government cannot possibly stop their inter-action at Monday's junction. The vote of confidence, the way we see it, is only a green light for the prime minister and his cabinet colleagues to proceed with implementing their programme as enunciated in their policy statement of two weeks ago.

The real confidence in the government comes when the representatives of the people work hand in hand with the ministers and their departments to solve everyday problems facing the citizen and his way of living.

Democracy is a daily practice, and not some form of an abstract idea or a system. It can be achieved only after the system of checks and balances is applied, in the right frame of mind and within an open political atmosphere in which every citizen can participate. The government and parliament will have played their role to the full in advancing the democratic process when the good ideas of benefit to the society surface and survive, and when the bad ideas are allowed to be brought in the open to face their natural death.

We are indeed heartened by the prime minister's reply to many of the critical statements levelled at the government during Monday's debate. But we are especially pleased by his promise that the parliament's time of recess will be shortened in order to allow for more parliamentary debates of laws and legislation and issues of interest to the country and its people. It is during such debates that we hope democratic practices can be initiated and strengthened; and it is then when we should know that our political system is working and flourishing.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: For fruitful cooperation

NOW THAT the government of Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai has won parliament's confidence, it will certainly embark on its mission with a stronger momentum. The various deputies who spoke at Monday's parliament session voiced their confidence in the government and pledged to help it carry out its reform programmes. Of course some did make remarks about certain issues that should be tackled in cooperation between the legislative, and executive authorities. But these remarks were understood by the prime minister and he promised to show actions rather than make statements in reply to them.

The most significant points which the deputies and the prime minister agreed on included: measures to safeguard the steadfastness of the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, endeavours to reestablish Arab solidarity and the work at home to revitalise the economy and guarantee freedoms. Of all that was said at the session, one can come up with conclusion that national unity is being strengthened and that every thing possible is being done to pave the way for a fruitful cooperation between parliament and government for the sake of serving national interests.

Al Dustour: Expecting much from government

THE VOTE of confidence for the new government reflects the deputies' reliance on this government to implement the programme of its policy statement to parliament on April 17, and in accordance with the directives of King Hussein in his letter of designation to Mr. Zaid Al Rifai.

A quick look at the speeches delivered Monday during the confidence session reveals that they all reflect the great hopes and aspirations they attach to the new government and its programmes at a very critical time in Jordan's history. The reply of the prime minister to these speeches was another confirmation that the new cabinet will be totally committed to its programme. The reply reaffirmed the spirit of optimism which the public felt before and continues to feel now with great expectations, and brighter outlook towards the future.

The deputies made it clear that they trust the prime minister, who enjoys vast experience in government affairs and that they want him to go ahead with social and economic reform programmes and for guaranteeing personal freedoms.

The prime minister's reply reaffirmed that the government will tackle the economic problems, give support to farmers, support the steadfastness of the Arab population under Israeli rule and work towards building Arab solidarity. The reply covered domestic and external affairs which the deputies raised in their speeches. We share with them the hope that the government's programmes will be crowned with success.

Sawt Al Shaab: Just a good start

THE OPEN debate of the government's policy statement at parliament's session Monday reflects the democratic rule which this country enjoys and the constructive spirit of the deputies who took part in the debate. The prime minister, who heard the speeches of the deputies, gave a favourable response to most of the points raised in the debate and pledged that his government will honour its commitments to the latter.

This reply placed matters in their right perspective and assured the deputies and the public which they represent that the government will never take any steps without consultations and close cooperation with the parliament. It is because the government's reply displayed total compliance with the directives of King Hussein that the deputies were satisfied and granted the government a vote of confidence.

This vote of confidence is a start and marks the first step in the long march towards achieving the aspirations of the nation.

Deputies call for emancipation of speech freedom,

By Salameh B. Ne'matt, Sa'ad G. Hattar and Rama Sabbagh

Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN - Lower House of Parliament deputies Monday delivered speeches before the vote of confidence which Prime Minister Zaid Rifai won with 48 votes in favour and six against in the 60-member House. The six members who withheld their confidence were Riyad Nawayseh, Laith Shbeilat, Abdullah Akaileh, Ahmad Kofahi and Hafez Abdul Nabi. Six members were absent. The Jordan Times Tuesday published 14 of the 31 speeches delivered at the House, and following are the rest:



Laith Shbeilat

Deputy Laith Shbeilat criticised bureaucracy in government departments and institutions and called for a better order of policy making within the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the government.

He called on the government to "restore its credibility and maintain its control over individuals who are exceeding their limits of power and bypassing the authority of the government on many occasions."

"The government's influence on the weak citizen is more than needed while its prowess disappears before many independent institutions and powerful centres," he said.

Mr. Shbeilat said the government is called upon to allow the freedom of speech in the parliament and elsewhere. "It is required from you to throw your weight behind the freedom of speech without defensive and abortive attempts that would result in extremism," he warned that such attempts will drive people to extremes and not the ways they say. "If these words were allowed to flow unhindered, then there is no fear they will return, roaring like the overflow of water out of a dam."

He called on the government to define the responsibilities of administrative and decision makers by enforcing a system of transcribing minutes of meetings in any official session or meeting.

He criticised the government's policy of confiscating citizen's passports and demanded an explanation from the government before giving his vote of confidence. "Every citizen forced to stay in his country without a passport and a limited job opportunity will inevitably rebel against the country which suppresses him," Mr. Shbeilat said.

He emphasised the role of Jordanian expatriates in supporting the Kingdom's economy from their remittances. Mr. Shbeilat urged the government to pressure host governments to provide Jordanian expatriates with better treatment and more appropriate living conditions.

He also asked the government to explain its policies of travel across the bridges to the occupied West Bank which he said "resulted in evicting people living there or the reluctance of people who left to return to their lands."

On the government's information policy, Mr. Shbeilat called on the government to lift censorship of the written word and to allow opinions of intellectuals to be published without restriction.

"The media has so far failed in fulfilling the parliamentarian's right in making his voice be reached to the people who elected him," he said. "This intentionally or unintentionally has contributed to the political assassination of deputies."

He said the official government media has particularly ignored the necessity of holding meetings and dialogue with parliamentarians to discuss important issues which concern the citizen.

Criticising the press, Mr. Shbeilat said that although two of the three main newspapers in the Kingdom are privately owned, "with the tight censorship, they look like government papers. There should be papers to tell the other side of the story," he said.

Regarding the Kingdom's security, Mr. Shbeilat praised the government's announcement in its policy statement of its intention to limit the application of martial law to issues pertinent to the Kingdom's conflict with the Israeli enemy.

Mr. Shbeilat said existing court laws and procedures have forced citizens to resort to tribal laws to settle their differences. "Tribal laws will remain whether abolished by the government or not, as long as there is a lack of confidence between the government and the people," he added.

He called for more strict punishment of crimes in the Kingdom in accordance with Islamic Law. "Is killing a killer considered backwardness?... Is stoning the adulterer backwardness?" Mr. Sh-

beilat asked in defence of his assertion. He said that backwardness "lies in laws and systems protecting criminals more than the society and its members."

On the Kingdom's economy, the deputy attacked the previous government's policies which he said were "a direct interference in economic sectors instead of applying appropriate supervision to let the economy grow unhindered." "The return now to concentrating on the private sector in the absence of government supervision will neither be the right solution," he said.

He called for more aid to the poor besides what is provided by charitable societies and funds. He said the 1985 government budget allocated only 0.007 per cent of its general expenditure for the poor. In conclusion, Mr. Shbeilat called on the government to adopt Islamic law in its legislation, the abolishment of laws restricting the citizen's freedom and the release of political prisoners and to declare a general amnesty.

Dr. Fawzi Shaker Tuameh

Deputy Fawzi Shaker Tuameh (Balqa) said that the government's statement expresses in general the people's worries and hopes, but many aspects of the statement need to be reviewed.

Commenting on the subject of public freedoms, he said the government statement does not reflect any departure from the framework of other previous governments.

He said the Constitution calls for the "restraint of authority" not by how much the government sees fit but in accordance to the terms of the Constitution itself which guarantees all basic freedoms of individuals.

Dr. Tuameh said "the destiny of the people is linked to what the government sees as being in the interests of people or not." He said that journalism should be given the full opportunity to assume its role as a "monitor," including journalists' freedom of expression and opinion instead of assuming a "hypocritical role."

He said 11 years have passed since the last general amnesty in the Kingdom and it is "high time for another amnesty that will give the chance to those convicted to become better and productive citizens."

Turning to the government's economic policy, Dr. Tuameh warned against the dangers of a market economy in the absence of tight controls and said that unless tight controls are imposed, "Capitalism will thrive and competition will further increase the chances for corruption." He said "it is not easy to ensure that the morals of a free market economy will not reflect on the morals of the society" and called for the fixing of the prices of "many" commodities necessary for people.

He said amendments to economic and monetary legislation should take into consideration, not only the government's new policy, but should also have as "its first priority the interests of all people, not a single group."

He called on the government to recall Jordanian experts working abroad and utilise their expertise in prospecting of oil and mineral resources inside the Kingdom.

On agriculture, Dr. Tuameh welcomed the government's pledge to support this sector.

He called on the government to cut direct and indirect taxes and to extend priority to essential and productive projects and to provide housing for low-income groups.

On education, Dr. Tuameh said "it is time to review education curricula in a way that would ensure the fulfilment of the peoples' ambitions in the social, cultural and educational fields."

On social work, Dr. Tuameh said while voluntary societies have so far taken care of the needy, "it is time that a national programme that provides social, health, education and living security for all is drawn up and implemented."

Dr. Tuameh said that "while we celebrate the Year of the Youth it becomes imperative that a comprehensive policy in this field is devised, based on a clear policy that channels the efforts of the youth into the path of the country's interests."

On foreign policy, Deputy Tuameh said, "in view of the Zionist enemy's policy of aggression, supported by American imperialism," he could understand the "enthusiastic rush towards peaceful solutions while our enemy will not withdraw an inch from the occupied territories and from Jerusalem that the enemy considers to be his capital."

He said that while the balance of power is in favour of Israel and while "We (the Arabs) do not have the power to induce pre-

ssure, directly or indirectly, through the United States, we must support the steadfastness of our people in the occupied territories and build our own strength militarily, politically and economically."

He called on the government not to indulge in a "separate solution" to the Palestinian question without the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

On the Iran-Iraq war he called on the government to continue its support of Iraq.

Dr. Tuameh concluded by granting his vote of confidence and that of "my colleague Zuhair Al Hussein (also of Balqa)" to the government.

Yousef Al Adem

Deputy Yousef Al Adem (Ma'an) pointed out that "our policy is based on Islamic doctrines which neither support someone for the sake of another, nor oppose someone for the benefit of the other, whether this someone is a 'citizen' or 'the government.'"

Mr. Adem called for the "Islamisation" of education, economics, law, the military, politics, the mass media and the intellectual aspects of the Kingdom. He added that this would lead the country to become an example of giving, loving, caring, fraternity, Jihad (holy war against infidels) and a nation of self-endeavour. He also said that "Islamisation in these fields" will result in resistance against oppression.

Mr. Adem went on to discuss the second article of the constitution which states that "Islam is the country's official religion." He added that all those who behave in a contrary manner to this article go against God's text, the Islamic way of life and oppose the second article of the constitution. "I have always called for implementing this article not in theory but in practice," he said.

Mr. Adem also said that a secure situation in the country is the foundation for an economic boom and for increasing education and for industrial progress. He pointed out that the country's security should never be "neglected."

Concerning the economic situation in the country, Mr. Adem said: "We are against interfering in the economy of the country under the cover of communism, but we are for a free and guided trade policy, which is based on competition for total welfare."

Mr. Adem called for exempting customs duties on basic food commodities, clothes, books and medicines.

Mr. Adem said that technological advances in the field of agriculture should be adapted to eventually give the country food security. He also called for implementing a loan plan to reduce usury and to encourage local farmers to invest in their land.

He added that local industry should be encouraged through protection of local products, through trying to upgrade the standard and quality of the products as well as staging proper advertising campaigns to promote the marketing of such products. He said that such a strategy will, in the long run, replace imported foreign products with local products.

Mr. Adem pointed out the importance of establishing a laboratory's city to be located in the suburbs of Amman and which should provide all basic living needs for workers.

He suggested that labourers should be given their full rights, as well as their right to total medical and vocational insurance. Mr. Adem added that the government should study the status of any industry and if it is proved that these industries are doing a good job, part of their revenues should be distributed to the labourers in such companies. He called on the government to donate government owned lands to citizens and labourers. He added that farm labourers should be given part of the land's profits which he said will "challenge farmers to work more."

Deputy Adem stressed that the Zakah duty (obligatory donation of money by all Muslims according to their annual profits) should be reconsidered by the government and should be implemented according to Sharia Law. Mr. Adem praised Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's endorsement for the establishment of a social insurance fund, and expressed his hope that such a fund will be set up on scientific socio-economic bases.

Mr. Adem suggested that the government should reexamine Jordan's medical services and expenses in order to eliminate doctor's unemployment and to encourage local pharmaceutical companies through promoting their local products.

Concerning tourism, Mr. Adem condemned the luxury hotels which offer alcoholic drinks. He said that instead of alcohol, tourism should be linked with Jordan's culture, history and heritage. Mr. Adem reaffirmed his belief that alcohol should be banned throughout the Kingdom.

The educational policy in the country, he said, should be reconsidered. He added that the government should reassess permits which allow the establishment of co-education schools, especially in the intermediate and secondary stages of school education. He added that education should be under the umbrella of Islam, which calls for "proper norms and values."

Mr. Adem called on the government to reconsider a ban on establishing private universities and community colleges. Lifting this ban, he said, would decrease the number of expatriate students and would increase the Kingdom's revenues.

In his speech, Mr. Adem stressed that teachers' standards of living should be upgraded, especially since teachers are the builders of tomorrow's generation and since teachers have low incomes and have no medical insurance.

The information policy of the country should be restructured, Mr. Adem said, and he suggested the establishment of a Higher Information Council in which the ministries of Higher Education, Awqaf, Education, Culture, Information and Youth would participate in order to implement constructive plans and to draw up strategies for the information system.

"Extraordinary laws," Mr. Adem said, should be reexamined, since such laws "neglect justice" and "do not provide security." He also called on the new government to establish a legislative committee whose responsibility would be confined to the "Islamisation of laws."

Mr. Adem condemned the United States' policy regarding the Arab World. He said that the Kingdom's political relations with foreign countries should be based on "mutual respect and understanding."

Referring to Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Mr. Adem said that our continuous efforts to promote peace have been undermined. "Therefore, the only solution is Jihad, martyrdom and a sound economy as weapons and these three factors will lead us to Jerusalem," he described his suggestion as the "one and only solution to the Palestine issue."

The Jordanian Armed Forces should be given more attention and their financial budget should be increased since the army is our "sole defender," Mr. Adem said. "The People's Army, Mr. Adem said, is the counterpart of the Jordanian Armed Forces and he expressed hope that the initiative would be taken to form the People's Army.

Mr. Adem concluded by withholding his vote of confidence in the government.



Naim Al Tal

Deputy Naim Al Tal (Irbid), expressed hope the new government will execute all that was promised in its policy statement.

Mr. Tal, who is also the deputy governor of Irbid, praised the government's decision to establish a new ministry of state for parliamentary affairs saying that such a ministry will strengthen the dialogue between the legislative and executive authorities.

He said the new government's statement was so comprehensive in the sense that it tackled all issues of concern to Jordan.

He expressed hope that the government's new policy will solve all obstacles that hindered the Jordanian citizens in the past, whether it was their right to freedom, legal rights or financial and psychological security.

He added that Jordanian students who are studying abroad should be given more attention, especially since a lot of these students fall into "traps" or were "abused and black-mailed." Mr. Tal recommended that the government should examine the cases of abused students in order to find solutions to such problems.

He called on the government to raise all obstacles which are blocking the way for such students to return to their homeland. "Instead of treating such students with hatred," he said.

He linked the condition of such students with the right of freedom of thought and expression and said as long as these two fall within the context of "public welfare."

He stressed that equality among citizens increases their loyalty and patriotism. Therefore, he said, governmental fellowships and scholarships should be divided according to the applicant's grades

and social standards, away from "nepotism."

Mr. Tal praised the government's intention of reviewing the educational curricula in Jordan and call for raising teachers' social and economic conditions.

He voiced total support for efforts "to increase the attention given to the Jordanian Army" and said the Army is the symbol for "our strength and pride."

He stressed that since the new government has based its statement on individual equality and rights, administrative matters should "stay far from nepotism."

Mr. Tal voiced support to the government's new initiative of reviving political relations with some Arab countries. "During the terms of past governments, a lot of political ties were cut with different Arab states," he said and called for the restoration of such relations.

Mr. Tal concluded by granting his vote of confidence to the government.



Abdul Wahab Al Tarawneh

Deputy Abdul Wahab Al Tarawneh (Kerak) described the new government's policy and statement as "healing our sores and discomforts." He added that the government statement should be documented "for history's sake."

He pointed out the necessity of introducing legislation to investigate illegal money, which he said has made so many people wealthy in Jordan.

Deputy Tarawneh gave his vote of confidence in the government.

Mufeed Mubaslat

Deputy Mufeed Mubaslat (Nablus) called on the government to keep parliament informed at all times regarding government plans and implementation timetables and especially its plans for social justice, equal opportunities and support for the inhabitants in the occupied territories.

He also called for the development of agriculture, more emphasis on exploiting natural resources, the development of education and providing the Jordanian Armed Forces with better arms and training.

Mr. Mubaslat concluded by voicing his vote of confidence in the government.

Hefthi Melhis

Deputy Hefthi Melhis (Nablus) gave his vote of confidence in the government and called for continuous support for the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "I request the new cabinet to take further steps to facilitate travelling procedures to the East Bank for our families in the occupied territories," he said.

Mr. Melhis also denounced a trend in the country to construct luxurious buildings. He said that buildings represent a burden on the country's economy while the money could be invested in agricultural and development projects.



Musbah Kazem

Deputy Musbah Kazem (Jerusalem) stressed that Arab citizens living in the West-Bank should be granted more than a one-month residence permit once they enter Jordan via the bridges. He added that limiting their stay in Jordan has not helped to reduce the number of West-Bank citizens who are emigrating.

Deputy Kazem raised the issue of establishing a post-office at the East-Bank bridge to offer facilities for West-Bank citizens to send their mail once they have crossed the bridge into Jordan.

Another issue he said is the fact that West-Bank Arab students and youth have to consult "the follow-up department." Some even can not manage to enter the

East-Bank he added. This has affected the enrollment of students in Jordanian and other universities, especially since the occupation authorities prohibit the entry of those who have left the West-Bank for more than one month, he said.

Mr. Kazem voiced hope that the new government will be able to tackle and abolish these restrictions and thereby, facilitate the entry and stay of West-Bank citizens in Jordan.

Mr. Kazem concluded his speech by giving his vote of confidence in the government.

Daoud Suleiman Daoud

Deputy Daoud Suleiman Daoud (Jerusalem) called on the government to guarantee the basic needs for the success of the new five-year plan for 1986-1990.

He said the basic criteria should be "equality between all sectors of society, facing local manpower problems, which might result from miscalculations, and supporting the Jordanian Armed Forces."

Mr. Daoud stressed that procedures for "East-West Bank bridges" crossing have to be reconsidered "in order to get rid of the negative aspects while maintaining the 'positive' ones."

He stressed the need for comprehensive development plans to face the Israeli occupation's measures which aim at "confiscating our lands" and "forcing people to emigrate."

"Touristic sites, historical places and the Holy-Land" which managed to restore Arab identity under the Israeli occupation should be supported through adequate financial support, Mr. Daoud said.

The civil service apparatus services should be improved to eliminate "routine procedure," he added.

He went on to say that the information policy in Jordan should take into consideration the conditions of "our families who are living under Israeli occupation" through helping them to overcome Israel's tyranny and information plans.

Mr. Daoud said that the government should support the agricultural sector in the occupied West Bank through exempting the products from taxes and by financially supporting Arab farmers.

He emphasised the importance of reestablishing the abolished travel law between the occupied West Bank to Egypt via the Gaza Strip and said that such a facility would allow Arab citizens to visit their families in Egypt more easily.

Mr. Daoud gave his vote of confidence in the new government.

Ahmad Kofahi

Deputy Ahmad Kofahi (Irbid) said in his speech that although the government has pledged to tackle many internal and external problems, it has ignored the issue of establishing a higher committee for national guidance and a policy for "combating corruption in the administrative system."

He said: "These are basic necessities that are indispensable."

In his address to the House, Dr. Kofahi, who withheld his vote of confidence in the government, said "citizens' freedom is the most important right which is linked to man's humanity. It is the government's duty to protect this freedom and encourage people to demand it."

He expressed the need for supporting the armed forces, training people to struggle and for solving the economic and agricultural problems by fighting illegal profiteering.

"We should work to retrieve our funds from foreign banks and redirect expatriate remittances to be invested in development and economic projects in the Kingdom," he said.

He called on the government to get acquainted with problems facing Jordanian expatriates and to defend their interests and protect them from any harm.

Dr. Kofahi praised the government for seeking to reduce rules and regulations complicating governmental procedures, particularly those requiring citizens to travel from rural areas to the capital.

He emphasised the importance of diversifying sources of income for the government and concentrating on extracting minerals and developing the local government system.

On the Palestinian question, Dr. Kofahi urged the government to consider the issue of concern of all Muslims and to educate the nation to struggle.

"It is necessary to rear people on Islam's teachings and principles at all levels. He pointed out the importance of giving special attention to youth."

Commenting on the media in the country, Dr. Kofahi said "our media is the reason behind many negative attitudes that prevailed in our country through the radio, television and other means which encourage evil tendencies."

He called for the Islamisation of education and its curriculum stressing "the necessity to stop co-education at all stages."

(Continued on page 5)

political expression, unrestricted travel and security

(Continued from page 4)



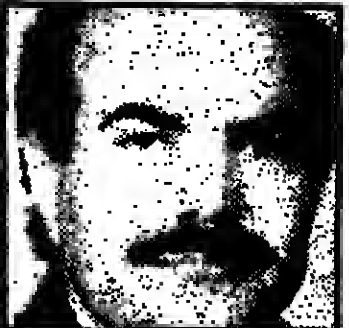
Salman Al Qudat

Deputy, Salman Al Qudat (tribe) gave his vote of confidence in the new government although he said there were several crucial issues the new government should take into consideration.

He called for a special assessment of the Jordanian Armed Forces which he said represents the 'shield' of the country. "Jordan is in a critical position and there may come a time when we have to resort to weapons to defend our land. Therefore, the Armed Forces must get their deserved attention from the new government," said Mr. Qudat.

He also requested the government to support basic food commodities, especially bread. "I also urge the government to follow up on its plan to encourage the cultivation of cereals, especially wheat," he added.

Mr. Qudat also called for legalising political parties, as stipulated in the Jordanian constitution. "Jordan's constitution does not forbid forming political parties as long as they do not threaten public security and as long they do not import."



Nazih Ammarin

In his speech, Deputy Nazih Ammarin (Karak) called for increased support for the Armed Forces to protect the country and to preserve its sovereignty and independence. He endorsed the government's decision to support Arabs in the occupied territories and moves to strengthen inter-Arab relations.

He encouraged the government in its endeavour to revitalise the private sector and urged private enterprises to increase their investments side by side with the public sector.

"We believe that reducing financial, tax and administrative restrictions will lead to more efforts to increase the national product, hence increasing the country's income," Dr. Ammarin said.

"However," he continued, "the initiative should come from the government."

He called on the Ministry of Industry and Trade to supervise commercial companies and to assign the Audit Bureau to control these companies' budgets and to

unveil illegal transactions or violations.

Commenting on the situation in the agricultural sector, Dr. Ammarin said Jordan imported JD 200 million worth of food in 1984, while exports of produce did not exceed JD 40 million. "This means our agricultural produce does not cover more than 20 per cent of our needs," he said, urging the government to give priority to the agricultural sector in order to provide greater food security.



Edward Khamis

In his speech, deputy Edward Khamis (Bethlehem) urged the government to scrutinise the administration of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs which he said "has become a stock market for brokers" in the occupied West Bank.

"I suggest that all its transactions should be under the control of the Audit Bureau and to form control committees from the government to operate in the West Bank," Mr. Khamis said.

He charged that "funds allocated to finance institutions, universities and other establishments in the West Bank also went to phantom institutions without any control."

Referring to travel problems to and from the occupied West Bank, deputy Khamis criticised procedures on the King Hussein bridge saying "workers coming to Jordan from the West Bank should have the priority over labourers of foreign nationalities who are allowed to work freely in the Kingdom."

On education, Mr. Khamis said the Ministry of Education "acted in haste when seeking to implement the secondary stage examination test law." The law stipulated that students of the third preparatory phase would have to pass a test after which 60 per cent of males and 70 per cent of females would be admitted to the secondary stage. The rest would be forced to take up non-academic careers according to the law.

He called on the government to postpone the implementation of the law and said: "I fear this law will make students in the occupied West Bank work as labourers in Israeli settlements."

In his reply speech, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai assured deputies that he had issued orders to remove all inconveniences related to the law.

On agriculture, Mr. Khamis said the Jordanian market was flooded with olive oil which the government imported from abroad, besides the quantities of olive oil which entered the market from the West Bank. He said the government's imports of olive oil harmed West Bank farmers. "I call on the government to find an immediate solution to this problem," he said.

Commenting on passport laws, he said the existing laws "have become outdated after so many amendments." He suggested the formulation of a new law for passports which would guarantee the easy obtainment and renewal of passports and which would reduce complications in the existing laws.

He also called for an amendment to municipal council laws in order to give mayors more authority to implement development projects without delay.

On the issue of Jordanian expatriates working abroad, he expressed hope that the government will work towards "establishing a bridge of trust" with them, especially those in Latin America, to encourage them to utilise their expertise and invest their money in the Kingdom.

In the field of industry, he proposed that the government should urge industrialists and traders to establish a joint office in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade to market agricultural and industrial products and to open new markets in Africa "where Israel puts all its weight."

The media and the freedom of the press was also one of the issues mentioned by Mr. Khamis. He called on the government "to respect the law of the Jordan Journalists' Association in its implementation and to give more freedom of opinion within the limits of the constitution."

He praised the new government's step towards strengthening cooperation between the legislative and executive branches in the country by establishing a ministry for parliamentary affairs.

On foreign policy issues, he said: "I am confident the new government will work to strengthen relations with other countries mainly regarding the peace moves in the aftermath of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement."



Khalid Al Fayad

Deputy Khalid Al Fayad (Nablus) said that the speech he would present had been prepared by Deputy Sharif Al Qubaj (Nablus), Deputy Ziad Al Yunis (Tulkarem) and himself.

Mr. Fayad hailed the government's new step to establish the Ministry of State for Parliamentary Affairs.

He called on the government to issue a general amnesty, to return all confiscated passports and to issue Jordanian passports to wives of Jordanian citizens who carry Palestinian identity cards and who have recently returned to the Kingdom after the Israeli invasion of South Lebanon.

Mr. Fayad expressed his hope that the new government would be able to cater for the welfare of cit-

izens, since the government's stated policy is based on granting "freedom" to all citizens.

He stressed that the Jordanian Armed Forces and the Public Security Department should be given more support, since he said these two vital institutions are "protecting our country and people."

Mr. Fayad suggested that military service should be limited to one year instead of two, which he said would reduce expenses and efforts, especially since the People's Army project will soon materialise.

He voiced his agreement with the new government's economic and financial policy, but he pointed out that such a policy should be well-balanced taking into consideration the general welfare of consumers and merchants.

"The agricultural sector should be given due attention, especially since farmers have 'lost hope in reviving their sector'," he added.

Concerning the government's new policy to explore Jordan's mineral potential, Mr. Fayad praised such an initiative but called on the government to employ local and Arab expertise instead of foreign companies. He said that foreign companies have come up with nothing, whereas, it was Jordanian expertise which prospectured for and struck oil at Hamzeh oil field.

"Social security", he said, should be supported and should be extended to reach all sectors of society, especially those who live under poverty line.

He suggested that investigations into individual cases of prisoners should be encouraged in order to establish the reasons behind the crime. This, he said, falls within the context of "social security."

He suggested that wives of prisoners should be allowed to visit their husbands and that they should have "legal privacy", since such matters are of great importance to the social welfare of our society, Mr. Fayad pointed out.

He then called on the government to extend the residence permit period for West-Bank citizens who arrive in Jordan from one month to three months for all those under 40 years of age. For those above 40, he said, their period of residence in Jordan should be limitless.

Mr. Fayad stressed that a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee should be established to offer financial support to all municipal employees working in the education, agriculture and health sectors. He said that this would improve services to citizens in the 1967 occupied territories.

Mr. Fayad concluded by giving his vote of confidence in the new government.

Abdul Baqi Jammoh

Deputy Sheikh Abdul Baqi Jammoh (Zarqa, Chechnis) said he had studied the policy statement of Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and could not find anything more to add to it but to wish the new government success in achieving what it pledged to carry out.

Sheikh Jammoh, however, made some remarks about the fines, fees and taxes specially those imposed on Shari'a court cases which he said had been increased by more than 500 per cent and also taxes on homes which still to be increased without any justification. He said that house-

owners are paying the government too much, as if they are re-buying their own homes, and urged the government to reconsider the newly imposed taxes and fees.

"I call on the government to lift injustices done to a great number of people through martial law and without due recourse to constitutional laws or other regulations," Sheikh Jammoh said. He said that many people's interests have been damaged through application of martial law specially farmers who used to cultivate crops on 3000 dunums of land around King Talal Dam. He called on the new government to re-examine the cases of these farmers and lift the injustice.

Referring to the Ministry of Communications, Sheikh Jammoh said that this ministry which lay dormant for so many years suddenly came alive and began charging people fees for telephone conversations that had never been made.

He said that the ministry imposes exorbitant charges on subscribers for imaginable telephone conversations that they made with several foreign nations, and it claims that such conversations were registered by the computer. This computer should be returned to its manufacturer because it is faulty and needs repair and because it has been transformed into a thief in our country, Sheikh Jammoh said.

On inter-Arab relations Sheikh

Jammoh said that the Arabs should return to Islam, and in it they can find real unity. "Had the Arabs been united in Islam the Iran-Iraq war would not have lasted for such a long time," he said.

He called on the House to issue a statement supporting the resolutions of the Islamic conference which was held in Baghdad on April 25 and attended by 300 Muslim scholars who passed unanimous resolutions on the war. He said that the Iranian rulers still refuse to make peace with Iraq and persist in actions leading to more bloodshed and destruction.

Sheikh Jammoh expressed appreciation of Arab countries which have been honouring their financial commitments to Jordan and have continued to extend assistance to this country. He urged other Arab countries to extend assistance to the Jordanians and Palestinians to strengthen their steadfastness "in the face of the Zionist occupation of Arab land".

Hafed Abdul Nabi

Deputy Hafed Abdul Nabi (Nablus) gave his vote of confidence in the new government whose policy statement, he said, was integral and tackled every possible issue. However, Mr. Abdul Nabi stressed the necessity to preserve and maintain religious sites in the West Bank, especially the mosques in cities of Jerusalem and Hebron.

Panda Habibe

Money-devouring machines

THERE ARE machines that literally devour your money. They snap it, steel it... without shame, and there is nothing you can do about it. How can you argue with a machine, let alone an extortionist one?

Take for example the telephones at the Queen Alia International Airport. Have you ever tried to use them? You put your coin in one of them and hop, in a flash, it is swallowed; but that in no way means you have made your call. If the telephone there eats up coins quite perfectly, it does not necessarily mean that it works. It is there, well installed... like a booby trap. All you can do is accept the fait-accompli situation without complaining, and perhaps try your luck elsewhere with the odds very much against you.

But it is not only telephones — there are also other machines that one can see often nowadays: An electric jet-fighter with red lights. The amazing car, space-ship or a mechanical horse that our children love to play with.

Almost once every five times, the machine swallow the coin without offering anything in return. As for the frustrated child, all you can tell him is to place another coin and not to "argue" with the machine.

The other day, I was thinking about the telex in my office, and, believe me, it is not more honest than its fellow extortionist machines. You call a subscriber's telex number and you get the line. Before you have the time to type one single word, the line is cut. Time: 0.3 minutes says your telex. So in accordance with the rules, you will pay for a full minute although you did not have the chance to place a word. Is this fair?

All this is still nothing compared to shocking electricity, water or telephone bills we receive by the grace of whimsical computers. But this is another story that we will soon talk about.

One fact is certain: I personally hate machines that manipulate me.

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Soviet victory over Nazis still topical

By Alison Smale

MOSCOW — It is called the Great Patriotic War here and the pride in the Soviet victory over the Nazi war machine still covers this nation today.

"There wasn't a family that didn't suffer," Soviets often say. "Twenty million died."

The phrases have been repeated in literature and at virtually every public event in the four decades since Victory Day, rising to a new crescendo with the approach of the 40th anniversary.

The words may be dulling to an outsider, but they bespeak a deep emotion wrought by huge personal losses and kept alive for a new generation.

The war hit harder here than in occupied France, or battling Britain. In the western republic of

Byelorussia, it killed one in every four people.

As evacuees fled east to Siberia and industry moved behind the Ural Mountains, the war engulfed the vast country.

Svetlana Alexievich, author of a collection of memoirs of women war veterans, was born four years after Victory Day but she feels the scars of the war.

In her native Byelorussia, she said in an interview that lilac and apple trees growing wild are the only reminder that there were once carefully tended orchards in villages razed by the Nazis.

At her sister's recent wedding, her relatives were outnumbered by the groom's family from the Ukraine, where the war hit less hard. The reminder that many were missing because they died in the war brought tears to what oth-

erwise would have been a happy gathering.

"We are not a militaristic country," she said. "But among us there was not a single person, even a child, who was not touched by the war... the war went through everybody."

"Let's not talk about the country in the political aspect," she said. "Let's imagine it is families on holidays. Everybody gets together, and sees many are missing, not because they died and got old, but because of the war."

"My father's eyes sometimes get sad," she continued. "He remembers that he doesn't have two brothers, that they would have had families. My mother cries still that her mother died, perhaps she would have lived to be 80 and seen her grandchildren."

The powerful memories help

reinforce patriotism.

Ms. Alexievich recounted how a woman in wartime Stalingrad (now Volgograd) tended two wounded soldiers — one Soviet, the other German — and prevented them from killing each other.

"The basis of our victory is that we were people," she concluded. "Maybe the Germans were better soldiers and had better arms, but we were better people, which is why we beat them."

Yet Ms. Alexievich's book "War Has no Woman's Face," based on interviews with 700 women veterans over five years, has been popular with young and old since appearing in 1983.

Asked why, she said the young are interested in the personal, emotional accounts the book provides.

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Reagan pledges to go ahead with planned visit to German cemetery

LONDON (R) — President Reagan, ignoring an outcry from Jewish leaders and U.S. congressmen, has pledged to go ahead with a planned visit this weekend to a German war cemetery where members of Hitler's elite SS corps are buried.

Speaking from the White House Monday night in a live television interview sent by satellite to Europe, Mr. Reagan said: "I think it is morally right to do what I'm doing and I'm not going to change my mind."

He said he was not going to the Bitburg cemetery in West Germany to honour anybody but rather to bring home to the public more visibly what had happened during World War II and the reconciliation which had since taken place.

On Sunday, Mr. Reagan is due to lay a wreath at Bitburg where about 2,000 German soldiers, including 49 members of the Nazi SS corps, are buried.

Anger from Jewish groups and congressmen has forced the president to placate critics of his trip by including a visit to Bergen-Belsen, a Nazi concentration camp.

Republicans joined opposition

Democrats Monday in urging Reagan to cancel the visit in a debate in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Reagan was expected to fly to Europe later Tuesday to attend a summit in Bonn of the West's seven leading industrial nations.

Mr. Reagan restated his desire to talk to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev face to face and to negotiate nuclear weapons cuts.

He also said he was determined to find a way of helping Nicaraguan exiles pledged to stop what he called the creation of a "totalitarian Marxist-Leninist government" in the Americas.

On the Bitburg visit President Reagan said it was designed to mark the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II and to pay tribute to 40 years of democracy in West Germany and the 30 years it has spent as part of the Western alliance.

Asked about talks with Mr.

Gorbachev, Mr. Reagan said he would welcome an opportunity to sit down with him and try to eliminate some of the suspicion and hostility between the two superpowers.

Recalling the killing by a Soviet guard of a U.S. major in East Germany, he said:

"The only way to settle this is not standing several thousands miles apart saying things about each other but to express ourselves to each other and express ourselves as to what is needed if we're going to ever end these hostilities or at least reduce them."

Asked about a Soviet offer of deep cuts in strategic weapons in return for cuts in the West, he said: "We will join in real reductions of offensive nuclear weapons."

Mr. Reagan expressed his determination to press ahead with the development of a U.S. space-based defensive system saying that the Soviet Union had already made progress in this field.

But he said the U.S. would consult its allies on possible uses for the system before any deployment took place.

On Nicaragua, Mr. Reagan

denounced U.S. Congressmen who threw out his plan to give \$14 million to Contra rebels fighting the Sandinista government in Managua.

"They really are voting to have a totalitarian Marxist Leninist government here in the Americas," he said, but he added that he had not given up hopes of helping the Contras.

Mr. Reagan will be in Europe to attend a summit in Bonn of the West's seven leading industrial nations.

He called for a new round of talks to help eliminate barriers to free trade.

Asked about protectionism in the U.S., he said: "Everyone is guilty. We have all got some elements of protectionism. We need to get it all out on the table and see how together we can end those things that do bring about all these measures that are unfair."

He also held out hope of a cut in the U.S. budget deficit, which has been widely criticised in Europe.

"We have just started that fight and I'm determined that we're going to carry through with a plan that puts us back on a course that ends deficit spending."



SUMMIT MEETING: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega shake hands during their meeting at the Kremlin Monday (TASS photo)

Ortega consolidates Soviet support

MOSCOW (R) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said Tuesday his talks with Kremlin Chief Mikhail Gorbachev had consolidated Soviet support for his country.

Mr. Ortega told reporters he was satisfied with Monday's meeting with Mr. Gorbachev and other officials, at which "we ratified the support for Nicaragua which is being accorded by the Soviet Union."

A Soviet communiqué said Monday Gorbachev had pledged further economic and diplomatic support to Nicaragua in the face of U.S. aggression. Latin American diplomats said this would probably include an increase in arms supplies to Managua.

Mr. Ortega, who flew on to Belgrade on the next leg of an East Bloc tour, declined to say whether Moscow had promised to increase military aid.

"The Soviet Union is cooperating in different aspects which deal fundamentally with the defence of our country, economically and... financially," he said at the airport.

"The Soviet Union has been cooperating with Nicaragua with what we call cooperation for life, in contrast with what the United States is doing, sending death to Nicaragua," he added.

Mr. Ortega, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto and a large team of officials, said Managua's relations with Moscow were exemplary.

He contrasted what he said were U.S. efforts to destroy Nicaragua with Soviet understanding. Nicaragua wanted respect from the United States. "We want relations of dignity or we prefer to die fighting insurgents," he said.

The Soviet Union has moved closer to Nicaragua as U.S. actions against Managua have intensified. The state media have recently stepped up charges of U.S. aggression, giving wide coverage to last week's congressional vote against President Reagan's \$14 million package for Nicaraguan rebels.

In a speech last week, Mr. Gorbachev cited Nicaragua as an example of Washington trampling on the rights and sovereignty of other nations.

Latin American diplomats said the Soviet Union had outlined areas of potential closer economic links between the two countries in Monday's talks.

The two states Monday also signed an agreement to set up an inter-governmental commission to coordinate trade and overall economic relations.

Kanaks free 37 guards held on Mare Island after talks with Pisani

NOUMEA (R) — Militant Kanaks Tuesday released 37 people held on an island in France's troubled Pacific territory of New Caledonia after negotiations with the authorities, a spokesman for French special envoy Edgard Pisani said.

Those held flew back to New Caledonia's main airport north of Noumea after two planes were sent to pick them up from Mare Island in the Loyalty group to the north east.

They had been an advanced security guard for Territorial Assembly President Dick Ukeiwe and arrived on the island Monday night to prepare for a ministerial conference which local Kanaks said they knew nothing about.

About 200 Kanaks — indigenous Melanesians — held them in an airport building after damaging their plane and daubing it

with slogans, aviation sources said. There were no reports of casualties.

Also freed was the leader of the security party who was held in a tribal area on the island while negotiations were conducted between Mr. Pisani's representative, police and tribal chiefs.

Territorial Health Minister Pierre Mareca told reporters earlier the advance guard went to Mare to ensure Mr. Ukeiwe's personal safety.

Nidoloh Naisserline, leader of the Kanak Socialist Liberation (LNS) and a Mare Island chief, accused Mr. Ukeiwe of provocation in sending a "private commando". Mr. Ukeiwe and his ministers later cancelled the visit.

Local Kanaks said Mr. Ukeiwe had not gone through the correct tribal custom formalities in arranging the meeting of the rig-

hting anti-independence government on the island.

Mr. Ukeiwe, a Melanesian who wants to keep New Caledonia's French ties, was stopped from visiting his home island, Lifou, also in the Loyalty group, earlier this year when pro-independence Kanaks occupied the airport.

Mr. Pisani, appointed by the Mitterrand government to try to mediate between the Kanaks and French settlers, returned to Noumea at the weekend from Paris where new proposals were presented for determining the territory's future.

The anti-independence RPCR Party, which dominates the local territorial assembly, was quick to attack the proposals, which were announced last Thursday.

The new plan provides for the abolition of the present territorial assembly and envisages elections in August for four regional councils which would constitute a new assembly.

The government still intended to offer the option of independence in association with France but had postponed an independence referendum until after the 1986 legislative elections.

More than 20 people have been killed since November in clashes between Kanak militants seeking independence and white settlers, who with other Asian and Pacific immigrants make up the majority of the 145,000 population.

Bonn wants talks on 'Star Wars'

BONN, West Germany (AP) — The U.S. "Star Wars" space research programme is expected to be the main topic of discussion between Chancellor Helmut Kohl and U.S. President Ronald Reagan during Mr. Reagan's state visit here this week, Bonn officials said Tuesday.

Mr. Kohl wants to explain to Mr. Reagan West Germany's position on the U.S. research into a space-based defence against nuclear missiles, a Bonn government spokesman told the Associated Press.

Mr. Kohl will tell Mr. Reagan that West Germany is interested in participating in the research, known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), but only if the Americans are willing to guarantee that technology developed is shared equally on both sides of the Atlantic, said the spokesman, who asked not to be named.

Mr. Kohl has made it clear in recent months that he supports the American research, but has been vague as to whether West German firms should get involved.

He has also called for a common European position on the SDI. Mr. Reagan arrives in West Germany Wednesday morning, but he will meet with Mr. Kohl until after his official welcome by President Richard von Weizsäcker on Thursday.

After Thursday morning meetings with Mr. Weizsäcker and Mr. Kohl, Mr. Reagan's state visit will be interrupted by the world economic summit being held in Bonn Thursday through Saturday.

West German Government spokesman Peter Boenisch said Monday that Bonn was also standing firm on the Bitburg visit.

Mr. Boenisch said Monday that Mr. Reagan and Mr. Kohl are going to Bitburg to "honour the dead of all nations" and not just the soldiers of the cemetery.

"If someone lying there is guilty (of war crimes), then there was no worse punishment for him than death. These people are dead, and one should realise and respect this," Mr. Boenisch said.

He refused to say whether Mr. Reagan will lay a wreath at the cemetery.

Election official says Duarte party won

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Unofficial results from El Salvador's elections last month gave the Christian Democratic Party of President Jose Napoleon Duarte a majority in the 60-member National Assembly, the head of the Electoral Council said.

Mario Samayoa told reporters final results from the poll on March 31 were not yet ready, but on the basis of unofficial returns 33 Christian Democrats would take seats in the assembly when it held its first session on Wednesday.

He said Mr. Duarte's party had also unofficially won 153 of the country's 262 municipalities. The right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) of Roberto d'Aubuisson won 25

assembly seats according to provisional returns, Samayoa said.

Mr. Duarte, the country's first freely-elected president in 50 years, claimed victory the day after the elections. Right-wing parties had previously held a majority in the assembly, blocking his attempts to introduce reforms and end the civil war against leftist guerrillas.

A top leader of El Salvador's leftist guerrillas said Monday he had surrendered to the armed forces because he was disenchanted with Communism.

Napoleon Romero, a member of the Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) high command before his defection, denied earlier rebel reports that he had been captured on April 11 and tortured by the

army.

"I lost the conviction that Marxist-Leninism was the solution to problems," said Romero, who is also known by his combat title of Commander Miguel Castellanos.

He told reporters he turned himself over to National Guard forces in the town of Olcutilla just south of the capital on April 12 to take advantage of an amnesty offer.

Romero, now under military protection, is the second highest-ranking guerrilla leader to defect. In August 1982, Commander Alejandro Montenegro of the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) was seized in neighbouring Honduras and asked to be handed over to the Salvadorean army.

Shuttle's heat shield damaged in takeoff

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Space agency experts Tuesday tried to discover why the U.S. space shuttle Challenger's heat shield was damaged in takeoff and why a satellite stalled in the craft's hold.

Astronauts aboard the shuttle Monday smoothly deployed one satellite called Nusat, which is designed to measure air traffic control radar world wide, a few hours after a midday (1600 GMT) blast-off from here.

A second satellite named Glomr, owned by a defence contractor, stubbornly refused to budge from its dust bin-size container and the shuttle's payload bay.

"We wish we'd gotten the other one out," Mission Commander Robert Overmyer told flight directors in Houston. "We tried it twice and it was no go."

A space agency spokesman said the crew may make a second attempt to launch Glomr later in the seven-day mission. He said the problem possibly stemmed from faulty batteries.

During the mission two squirrel monkeys and 24 white rats are due to undergo tests, despite protests from animal welfare groups.

Apart from the satellite failure, Overmyer voiced concern about what appears to be damage to heat-resistant tiles covering the shuttle's nose and main engine.

"The engine's right side" really looks kind of beat up," he said. If the damage is extensive, it could pose problems when the shuttle re-enters the earth's atmosphere on May 6.

The shuttle blasted off after a near-flawless countdown, carrying a seven-man crew and the European-built Spacelab.

Along with the satellite failure, crewmembers reported that the spaceship's toilet system had left patches of urine floating in the cabin's weightless environment.

NASA traced the mishap to a leaky tube concealing the toilet with a urinalysis experiment, and the project was immediately discontinued.

Recent shuttle missions have been marred by a series of mechanical mishaps and lengthy delays. During the last flight of the space shuttle Discovery, a \$40 million satellite failed immediately after release and, despite a rescue attempt, was left floating powerless in orbit.

When Discovery landed at Cape Canaveral on April 19, it suffered brake failure, shredded tires and a hole burned into its wing.

COLUMN

Woman who killed husband by mistake found not guilty

BENDIGO, Australia (R) — A woman who said she accidentally shot her husband while trying to kill a snake was found not guilty Tuesday of murder. Dianne Meloury, from Bagshot in the southern state of Victoria, maintained throughout an 11-day supreme court trial that the shooting was an accident and she had fired at a snake menacing her husband. Her husband Kevin was shot dead on their dairy farm in January last year.

Planes bomb ice dam to ease floods

PEKING (R) — Chinese planes bombed ice dams which caused flooding along the Heilongjiang River bordering the Soviet Union this month and affected the lives of 10,000 people, a Chinese spokesman said Tuesday. He said flooding in the remote north east of the country submerged an island and swept away scores of houses, stables and warehouses. No deaths were reported. The spokesman in Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang province, said rescue work was still going on. Ten planes had been used to drop foodstuffs and bomb large ice dams which had built up, blocking melting spring snows and flooding the surrounding countryside.

Poor meals anger U.N. workers

UNITED NATIONS (R) — United Nations officials have left aside the grinding issues of world poverty, hunger and war to join a protest against bad food and smaller drinks served in their glass-towered headquarters. Hundreds of U.N. workers, among the world's best paid bureaucrats, lined up for free coffee and doughnuts supplied by their staff union, on a breakfast boycott of the headquarters' cafeteria. Organisers handed out leaflets complaining of bad food, bad service, unvarying menus, "hot dogs not fit for dogs, soggy vegetables, powdered soups, stale fruit." Rising discontent came to a head at the beginning of the month when portion controls were tightened and charges were imposed for items that formerly were free. Delegates also complained when the practice of freely poured drinks was changed to a dispenser system that yielded relatively small liquor measures at the bar.

SAS colonel reprimanded

LONDON (R) — A colonel in a crack British army undercover unit was severely reprimanded by a military court after admitting hoarding official documents, some of them connected with operations in Northern Ireland.

Richard Lea, 51, a member of the Special Air Service (SAS) commando unit and a former military attaché at the British embassy in Oman, pleaded guilty to holding on to more than 150 documents related to his active service. The documents were discovered at Col. Lea's home in southern England last June after a report of a burglary there. His rank gave him the right of access to the documents. Court officials said they related to SAS operations, some of them in Northern Ireland where Col. Lea once served. Col. Lea, charged under a section of Britain's Official Secrets Act not related to treason, was suspended from his post in Oman when the documents were discovered at his home.

Customs seize deer, camels, zebra, wallabies, and men

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. customs officials on the Mexican border have reported trouble with two men, two camels, five wallabies and a zebra. Headquarters here said the men tried to drive two lorry loads of animals across the frontier into Mexico near Nogales, Arizona, for a zoo in Hermosillo without proper export and health documentation. A spokeswoman said that when asked for an explanation, lead driver Jesus Garcia replied: "The man who usually brings the animals from Arkansas is in Los Angeles with a broken neck. His replacement absconded with all the medical papers after a wallaby escaped to Tucson, Arizona."

Garcia, who said he had been struck with a right hook from the fleeing wallaby, was arrested with the other driver and charged with attempted illegal export.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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THE TALE OF THE FIVE OF DIAMONDS

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands that we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column.

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ Q9863
♥ AK4
♦ 10
♣ A1085

WEST
♠ 72
♥ 832
♦ Q976432
♣ 2

EAST
♠ 4
♥ QJ109765
♦ J8
♣ KQ7

SOUTH
♠ AKJ105
♥ Void
♦ AK5
♣ J9643

The bidding:
East South West North
3♥ 4♦ 4♠ 4♥
Pass 4♠ 4♥ 4♥
Pass Pass Pass 4♥

Opening lead: Two of ♠.

The Five of Diamonds (he derived his name from the fact that he was a jeweler by trade) was full of nervous energy. Although he did not make many tricks in his own right, he was a favorite partner of many more powerful players because of his knack of making the right play at the right time.

"I do hate these preempts. Hav-

ing to make decisions at such high levels bothers me," he muttered. "Still, I had to do something over these hearts. I felt I was too strong for three spades and four spades is so unilateral. So I settled for a double and before you could whistle Dixie, I found myself playing in slam."

"West led a club. Had he led his partner's suit, I would have been able to assure the contract. Why do I always have to contend with these individualists?"

"Obviously, that had to be a singleton. And while I could no longer afford to strip the red cards from both my hand and dummy, draw trumps and then lead a club to the eight to guarantee the hand, an alternative plan presented itself."

"From the bidding and lead, I knew 10 of East's cards—seven hearts and three clubs. If he had no more than two diamonds, I was a shoo-in."

"I woo the ace of clubs, drew trumps in two rounds, cashed the ace-king of hearts for two club discards and ruffed a heart. Now I cashed the ace-king of diamonds, on which one of dummy's clubs was discarded. The time was ripe for me to enter the fray."

"You might have elected to ruff the Five of Diamonds. Not I! I chose to discard another club. West was forced to win and return a diamond—poor soul had nothing else in his hand. I discarded the table's last club while ruffing in hand, and since there was nothing but trumps left on the board, the slam was home."

They broke off their rare act of defiance Monday afternoon for a meeting with Mayor Chen Xitong and Municipal Party Chief Li Xim-ing.

Tuesday's official dailies said Mr. Chen and Mr. Li sternly berated the protesters for "individualism harmful to the interests of state and people," and ordered them to return to their work units in Shanxi.

According to the dailies, all of which carried the same report, two unnamed "initiators" of the demonstration then said they would go back to Shanxi at once.

The protesters were among millions of educated city youths sent to the countryside by Mao Tse-tung in 1968.

Many of the estimated 10 million young people rusticated at the height of Mao's Cultural Revolution to "learn from the peasants" are still living unhappily in remote provincial areas.

Peking imposed a news blackout on the demonstration, fearing it would prompt protests by other dissatisfied groups, but millions of Chinese heard about it from British Broadcasting Corporation and Voice of America broadcasts.

HO CHI MINH CITY (R) — Vietnam displayed its military muscle Tuesday to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Communist victory over the U.S.-backed Saigon government.

Tens of thousands of people turned up to applaud ranks of goose-stepping soldiers escorted by Soviet-made tanks and heavy lorries carrying surface-to-air missiles.

But some spectators told reporters the authorities had ordered them to line the route three hours before the procession started.

The parade passed by Communist Party leader President Truong Chinh and Prime Minister Phan Van Van on the reviewing stand near the former Independence Palace and the J.S. embassy building.

Also present was Lt. Colonel Nguyen Trung, a former South Vietnam pilot who defected to the North and helped the Independence Palace of South Vietnam's last president.

The palace has since been renamed Jilification Hill and the J.S. embassy is now headquarters of the state oil company.

The scene contrasted sharply with a decade ago when the entry

of Communist troops to Ho Chi Minh City was greeted with fear.

But despite flag-waving and cheering, even government officials admitted there was little to celebrate 10 years after the war. People are poor and there is hardly enough food to feed the country's 54 million population.

A middle-aged woman told Reuters in halting English: "The people may look happy to you but we are not. We have no liberty and little to eat. When Phin back 10 years ago I feel sad because it only reminds me of what we lost."

With Vietnamese troops bogged down in Saigonee, the peace and prosperity people expected is still a dream.

Ho Chi Minh City administrator Mai Chi Tho, brother of Vietnamese leader Le Duc Tho, told a news conference: "Because of the heavy legacy we inherited, we still face many difficulties."

Mr. Tho said Monday that Vietnam wanted normal diplomatic relations with the United States but that could not happen until Washington dropped preconditions.

The United States has said it will not normalize relations until

Vietnam removes its estimated 150,000 to 175,000 troops from Saigonee and co-operates in accounting for Americans still missing following the war.

Government leaders gave speeches extolling the virtues of Socialism, then a gun salute and flypast by Soviet attack helicopters and MiG-21 jets signalled the start of the parade.

It was followed by a procession of floats emblazoned with government slogans such as "Long Live the Communist Party of Vietnam" and "All for Building and Defending Socialism."

Columns of women wearing traditional Ao Dais and waving flowers and flags pleased the crowd.

Once worn by now women in the south, the Ao Dais, knee length dresses split to the waist and worn over slim trousers, are now used only for special occasions because of their prohibitive cost.

Among those who received the highest applause were young Communist League members with red handkerchiefs knotted around their necks, war veterans with campaign medals and athletes doing acrobatics.

The Soviet Union's official press Tuesday hailed the 10th anniversary of a historic withdrawal from Vietnam as a victory for forces of liberation comparable to the end of World War II.

In a dispatch from Hanoi, the correspondent of the Communist Party Daily Pravda said it was fortuitous that the anniversaries of two similar victories should fall so close.

The report, and an article for Pravda by the head of Vietnam's official Writers' Union, Nguyen Dinh Thi, said the U.S. withdrawal was a defeat for "imperialism and neocolonialism."

The Vietnamese writer compared the hoisting of the Communist flag above the Presidential Palace in Saigon with the raising of the Soviet flag in Berlin in May 1945.

"Our red flag with a yellow star... fluttered in the same fresh wind of victory, the victory of freedom over slavery, light over dark," he said.

Newspapers also published the text of a telegram sent to Hanoi Monday by the Soviet leadership assuring Vietnam of Moscow's support and economic aid.

مكتبة الامم